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24 PAGES

Delivery driver saves dog

By ROSALYN IMPINK
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — John Cassabria had no idea his enthusiasm for his work and his love for animals would intersect when he set out for work one August day.

Cassabria had recently moved from Connecticut to Lawrence and works at Zoo Station in Wilmington, an Amazon delivery service partner.

Cassabria was delivering packages in a Woburn neighborhood in early August when he heard a strange noise.

"I'm just a very inquisitive person by nature. I like to know things just to know them, because knowledge is power," he said.

According to an Amazon press release: "John opened his van door to get closer to, and identify the sound, which led him to a fence of a residence. John's heart started racing as he noticed a dog's muzzle barely sticking up from the water of an in-ground swimming pool. In a moment of quick thinking and bias for action, John dove into the pool to rescue the dog. It was then that John realized the dog was elderly and couldn't help himself and was exhausted from trying to stay afloat for an unknown amount of time. John was neck deep in the pool and was able to hoist the dog out and to safety."

Cassabria said that when he saw the dog in the water, "I imagined the worst possible scenario and prepared myself for that."

The homeowners were vacationing on Cape Cod, so Cassabria stayed with the dog — 14-year-old husky Luka — for an hour and a half before animal control arrived at the house. The animal control officer happened to live in the neighborhood and was able to call the owners to update them on the situation.

Cassabria was able to speak with the owners to assure them Luka was alright, and they "thanked him profusely"... later writing "a note of sincere gratitude to Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos," according to the press release.

"Animals are my life and I can't imagine what I'd do if my dog was in Luka's situation," said Cassabria.

Cassabria is a longtime animal lover; he grew up with both dogs and cats, and now has two cats, a dog, and a snake.

"I love working as an Amazon delivery driver and I am so thankful the universe placed me in a position to save Luka's life," he said. "My parents are my heroes... I'd love readers to know that you don't need a cape... to be a hero, anyone can be a hero."



Nature's bounty

Many exotic pumpkins and gourds to choose from at the Wilmington Methodist Church. Fun for all ages!

(photo: BruceHilliard.com)

Board of Selectmen receive COVID-19 update

By LIZZY HILL
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — The Board of Selectmen heard a COVID-19 update at their meeting on Monday night before they went onto communications and requests under board to consider.

Board of Health Director Shelly Newhouse said the town has 10 positive cases right now, not including a few in the town's nursing homes. She also shared that as of Monday, restaurants in town are permitted to seat guests at the bar. The last thing she mentioned was the drive-up flu clinic which was held last week and will be open again this Saturday from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. by appointment.

Chief Cavanaugh add-

ed that he's been coordinating the town's reimbursement under the CARES Act and now also through FEMA, which has been extended indefinitely. Both Cavanaugh and Newhouse also wanted to remind everyone to keep social distancing, wearing masks, and washing their hands.

The first communication the Town Manager read was about a recovery and remembrance event for substance abuse on Oct. 15 at 5:30 p.m. sponsored by Substance Abuse Coordinator Samantha Reif. While the board was concerned about limiting the public attendance to 50 people, Reif called in during public comments to say the public would attend

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Selectmen invite Town Counsel for 887 Woburn St.

By LIZZY HILL
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — In advance of their meeting on Monday night, Board of Selectman Chair Jonathan Eaton had invited Town Counsel to talk about the Environmental Notification Form for a proposed construction and demolition materials transfer site at 887 Woburn St.

In their comments about the property located across the street from the Olin Superfund site, the selectmen offered some of the materials they're proposing to transfer, including things like bricks, newspaper, steel, liquid natural gas, and wood chips.

Gregg Corbo of KP Law shared that the filing of this document was

the first step of a long review process. He said the form should identify potential impacts of the proposed project on the environment, what measures of mitigation may be appropriate, and any alternatives or other locations to be considered.

"It's an opportunity for the public to be apprised of the project and what the potential environmental impacts are," he continued.

He added that the ENF does not replace or supersede any approvals that may be necessary along the construction process like a zoning permit or approval from the Conservation Committee.

The next steps would be for the Massachusetts

COUNSEL | PAGE A11W

Merrimack College responds to sudden COVID-19 cluster

By CASEY STEVENSON
News Correspondent

NORTH ANDOVER — Colleges everywhere have to determine how to manage the COVID-19 pandemic on their campuses, and Merrimack College has been impressively cautious and careful while still providing as normal of a college experience as possible for its students.

Some of Merrimack's COVID policies have involved weekly testing for all on campus, including students, faculty and staff, enforced social distancing, close monitoring of student athletes, prohibition of parties, mandatory mask wearing, a hybrid of remote and in-person classes, and in-person classes offering remote options, as well as many more guidelines.

On Tuesday, Sept. 22, at around 9:40 a.m., students

were alerted through an official college email that Monican Centre, a freshman residence building, was being evacuated due to five positive cases of COVID-19 detected through the college's testing.

The college stated in their email that they were shutting down the building due to "an abundance of caution, and following our quarantine procedures."

Students in that building who lived within 200 miles of campus were asked to enact their emergency evacuation plans that were established before the semester began and go home for two weeks.

Merrimack College has not released any information, as of yet, as to what caused the sudden cluster of cases, but it is unlikely the cluster was formed on campus, due to the college's swift testing, quarantine, and con-

tact tracing procedures.

As of Sept. 29, the current case number of this cluster is upwards of 70; however, it has only been people in the Monican building who have tested positive.

Students who were unable to evacuate are being quarantined in school designated spaces until deemed safe to be on campus.

On Sept. 27, students were given another update, along with a few temporary changes. These changes were made to help further monitor any potential spread of COVID-19 and, as said by the college: "due to the focus on caution and our desire to calm the anxiety."

Some of the changes include the following:

- Mass testing was conducted on all residential students on Monday, Sept. 28 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Additionally, students who

were not already being tested for COVID-19 twice a week are being shifted to testing twice a week until further notice.

- All classes were moved to remote learning from Sept. 28 to Oct. 2. This was done in order to ease anxiety from both students and faculty.

As usual, students are strongly encouraged to stay on campus if they can, and to adhere to social distancing guidelines and obtain an abundance of caution if they need to leave campus.

The college also stated it was not shutting down campus, and, once students receive a negative test, they are free to "move about the campus, use campus facilities, and perform their campus jobs." Additionally, social events that adhere to campus guidelines are still happening on campus throughout the week,

such as Intramural cornhole tournaments, big prize bingo, and more.

As of next week, students who reside in Monican Centre who have tested negative will begin coming back to campus. More information regarding that will be released to students this Wednesday, Sept. 30.

Despite everything that is happening in the world, it is incredible to see colleges such as Merrimack, who have kept a level head, and creatively found ways to give their students the best college experience they can, and still keep those students safe and healthy.

We can only hope that more colleges around the country follow Merrimack College's example, and put the safety and well being of their students and faculty above all else.

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Tewksbury Library News:

Trivia Brothers return with an all-new family trivia event

Circulation Librarian Linda Pavluk Retires

Circulation Librarian Linda Pavluk has announced her retirement with her last day at WML on Sept. 29. Linda has been a valued member of the WML staff for 24 years, becoming the Circulation Librarian in 1999. She is well known to many of our regular library patrons for her courteous and friendly service. We wish Linda well in this next journey of life and celebrate her decision while acknowledging that she will be missed by staff and patrons alike. Congratulations Linda!

Adult Programs

Fiction Critique Group
Saturday, Oct. 3 at 9:15 a.m.

Love writing fiction? Whether you are drafting

a short story or a novel, joining our Critique Group is a great opportunity to meet other writers and get constructive feedback in a supportive environment. Open to all experience levels writing in all genres. Led by local writing enthusiast, Barbara Alevras. If you are interested in attending this event, please email Assistant Director Charlotte Wood at cwood@wilmlibrary.org. Please include the title of the program in the subject heading.

Author Talk with Craig Johnson
Saturday, October 3 at 7 p.m.

Craig Johnson is the New York Times bestselling author of the Longmire mysteries, the basis for the hit Netflix original series "Longmire." He is

the recipient of the Western Writers of America Spur Award for fiction, and his novella Spirit of Steamboat was the first One Book Wyoming selection. Craig will discuss the newest novel in the beloved New York Times bestselling Longmire series, Next To Last Stand.

Intro to Social Media
Wednesday, Oct. 7 at 7 p.m.

Interested in joining Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, or Twitter? Come join technology Librarian, Brad McKenna, to learn how each platform is alike and how they differ.

President George Washington Speaks on the Constitution
Thursday, Oct. 8 at 7 p.m.

Meet President George Washington as portrayed by John Koopman III, in this 45 minute lecture and learn what caused the colonists to found a new country and why the Revolution drove Washington to the Constitutional Convention. The President will also comment on the Constitution and its aftermath, and on tests to the new nation including avoiding war with France. George Washington, the father of our country, soldier statesman, first in war, first in peace, had a unique perspective on the founding of our nation — don't miss it. Presented in partnership with the Billerica

Public Library.

Library on the Lawn
Tuesdays 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Now only on Tuesdays! Would you like to browse and checkout books and DVDs? Be sure to stop by the front of the library to peruse carts of adult, teen, and children's materials. Masks are required and we ask all to respect social distancing. This event will not take place during inclement weather.

One on One Virtual Tech Help with Brad
Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

If you are having an issue with a piece of technology or have some questions about something before you go out and buy it, register for a one-on-one session with Technology Librarian, Brad McKenna.

Youth Programs

Outdoor Preschool Storytime at Yentile Farm
Saturday, Oct. 3 at 10:30 a.m.

Join us for an outdoor, socially distanced storytime at Yentile Farm, featuring books, rhymes and songs. Masks are required for anyone over the age of 2. Ages 2-5.

Family Challenge Trivia
Monday, Oct. 5 at 6:30 p.m.

Back by popular demand! The Trivia Brothers will return with an all-

new family trivia event! Enjoying an episode of "Challenge! Trivia" is easy. Here's what you need to know: First and foremost, you will need TWO DEVICES in order to enjoy the optimal experience — a computer (to join the Zoom meeting) and a smart phone or tablet (to play the game). Teams can be comprised of individual or multiple players. Recommended team size is 3-6 players.

Star Magazine Collaboration Session
Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 3:45 p.m.

Calling all artists, writers, crafters, puzzlers, chefs, and creators of any kind! Grades 3-6, Star Magazine is starting back up for a 2020 fall issue — VIRTUALLY! Create anything from drawings, paintings, sculptures, comics, short stories, jokes, poems, and reviews, to crosswords, word searches, wood scrambles, recipes for your favorite treats, or even how-to instructions (how to draw, make a craft, etc.). Join us for a Zoom meeting to chat and collaborate with other creative kids, but you do not have to attend any meetings to submit work!

Preschool Storytime
Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

This storytime for preschoolers includes books, rhymes, and music. Ages

3-5.

Time for Twos
Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

This storytime for two year olds includes books, rhymes, music and movement.

Baby Time
Thursdays at 10 a.m.

This program of songs, rhymes, games and picture books is for babies under the age of two years and their caregivers.

Library Open by Appointment

Patrons may make an appointment for a 50 minute session to browse on the first floor, use the copier/FAX machine, or visit the Youth Services Department. Reservations may be made online or by calling the library at 978-658-2967. Per the Governor's directive, all patrons over the age of two are required to wear masks while in the library. Patrons will also be asked to use hand sanitizer upon entering the library. Patrons can also continue to utilize curbside service Monday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.


PS Form 3526
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Advertisement

It's Your Money

by Todd Brisbois



TIPS FOR TAXPAYERS WHO HAVE TAX ISSUES AFTER FILING TAXES

— PART I —

While the federal income tax filing deadline has passed for most people, there are some taxpayers still facing tax-related issues. This includes taxpayers who haven't paid their taxes and those who are waiting for their refund.

Here are some tips for taxpayers handling some of the most typical after-tax-day issues. Here's how taxpayers can:

Check the status of a refund

Taxpayers can check on their refund using the "Where's My Refund?" tool. It is available on IRS.gov and the IRS2Go app. Taxpayers without access to a computer can call 800-829-1954. To use this tool, taxpayers need the first Social Security number on the tax return, the filing status, and the expected refund amount. The tool updates once daily, so taxpayers do not need to check more often.

Do a Paycheck Checkup

The IRS urges all employees, including those with other sources of income, to perform a Paycheck Checkup now. Doing a checkup will help employees make sure their employers are withholding the right amount of tax from their paychecks. Doing so now will help avoid an unexpected year-end tax bill and possibly a penalty.

The easiest way to do a Paycheck Checkup is to use the Withholding Calculator on IRS.gov. Taxpayers can use the results from the Calculator to help fill out the Form W-4 and adjust their income tax withholding with their employer. Taxpayers who receive pension income can use the results from the calculator to complete a Form W-4P and give it to their payer.

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Baker-Polito Administration OKs new indoor visitation guidance for rest home and assisted living residences

BOSTON — The Baker-Polito Administration announced new guidance that allows safe indoor visitation to resume in nursing homes and rest homes, and further expands indoor visitation options in assisted living residences (ALRs) starting Friday, Sept. 25. The guidance from the Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) balances the important role visitation plays in supporting resident emotional health and quality of life, while ensuring necessary infection control measures are in place.

The announcement builds on previous guidance to further support residents and their loved

ones who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. In March, the Commonwealth acted quickly to take precautions in restricting visitation at nursing homes, rest homes, and ALRs to protect resident safety and mitigate the spread of COVID-19. As the Commonwealth proceeded with a phased reopening, visitation restrictions were updated in June to allow for outdoor visitation with guidance on how these visits could safely occur.

Nursing homes and rest homes may resume in-person visits so long as appropriate infection control and safety measures are in place, including:

- Indoor visits should occur within a designated visitation space that is close to the entrance of the facility and allows for social distancing
- The visitor must be screened for COVID-19 symptoms and have their temperature checked
- Residents, staff, and visitors must wear a mask or face covering for the duration of the visit
- The visitor must remain at least 6 feet away from the resident for the majority of the visit
- If desired by both parties, there may be physical contact between the resident and visitor so long as precautionary measures are followed such as hand sanitation before and after contact
- A schedule is implemented for frequent disinfection of the designated visitation space

• The unit, floor, or care area where the resident lives must not have any COVID-19 cases in residents or staff in the past 14 days and the facility is not experiencing a staffing shortage that requires a contingency staffing plan

ALRs were previously able to resume indoor, in-unit visitation, and may now also resume indoor visitation in a designated shared space such as a waiting room near the entrance of the residence. ALRs are subject to the same appropriate infection control and safety measures described above, except for the requirement that there are no COVID-19 cases in the past 14 days.

Tewksbury, Wilmington libraries to host 'Longmire' author on Saturday, Oct. 3

TEWKSBURY — The Tewksbury Public Library and Wilmington Memorial Library have joined forces to host bestselling author Craig Johnson for a Zoom webinar on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2020 at 7 p.m.

Johnson will discuss his brand new book — "Next To Last Stand: A Longmire Mystery" — in conversation with moderator Hank Phillippi Ryan in this Zoom webinar.

Space is limited. Registration is required and

can be found at www.tinyurl.com/nexttolaststand.

While this virtual event is completely free, attendees can purchase an autographed copy of the book to be shipped to their homes from the event's bookstore partner — Wellesley Books — at www.tinyurl.com/buynexttolaststand.

Craig Johnson is the New York Times bestselling author of the Longmire mysteries, the basis for the hit Netflix original series

"Longmire." He is the recipient of the Western Writers of America Spur Award for fiction, and his novella "Spirit of Steamboat" was the first One Book Wyoming selection. He lives in Ucross, Wyoming, population 25.

"Next To Last Stand" is the new novel in the beloved bestselling Longmire series. One of the most viewed paintings in American history, Custer's Last Fight, copied and distributed by Anheuser-Busch at a rate of over two million copies a year, was destroyed in a fire at the 7th Cavalry Headquarters in Fort Bliss, Texas, in 1946. Or was it?

When Charley Lee Stillwater dies of an apparent heart attack at the Wyoming Home for Soldiers & Sailors, Walt Longmire is called in to try and make sense of a piece of a painting and a Florsheim shoebox containing a million dollars, sending the good sheriff on the trail of a dangerous art heist.

Hank Phillippi Ryan is a USA Today bestselling author of 12 thrillers, winning the most prestigious awards in the genre: five Agathas, three Anthony's, the Daphne, and for "The

Other Woman," the coveted Mary Higgins Clark Award. She is also an investigative reporter for Boston's WHDH-TV, with 37 EMMYs and dozens more journalism honors.

Book critics call her "a master of suspense," "a superb and gifted storyteller." Hank's newest standalone psychological suspense thriller is "The First To Lie." Publisher Weekly starred review says: "Stellar. Ryan could win a sixth Agatha with this one."

This event is sponsored by a collection of North of Boston libraries, including the Memorial Hall Library in Andover, Billerica Public Library, Flint Memorial Library in North Reading, Tewksbury Public Library, Wilmington Memorial Library, and Woburn Public Library.

This event is a part of a series of virtual discussions with bestselling authors held this fall. The next event in the series features a discussion with Gregory Maguire, who will be discussing the 25th Anniversary of "Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West," and his latest book, "A Wild Winter Swan."

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9/30&10/7

History:

Did Weetamoo walk through Wilmington?

By LARZ F. NEILSON

The history of Wilmington begins about 1665 with the first settlers, Will But-ter, Richard Harnden and Abraham Jaquith. Massa-chusetts Bay was first set-tled nearly 50 years before that.

Of course, there is un-known history of natives going back thousands of years. Some interesting sto-ries, though, can be found. One comes from Lynn & Surroundings, by Clarence W. Holden, published in 1886. He wrote of the first settlers there, and some of the native stories they learned.

The following tale quite possibly would have in-cluded travel through what is now Wilmington. Wo-burn Street is an old native trail, crossing the Ipswich River at Jenk's Bridge. In early times, it was a ford. Because of the wide swamps along the river, there were no other crossing points from there to the sea. Any-one traveling north would have crossed there.

The easternmost part of Wilmington, very roughly everything east of Route 93, was once part of Read-ing, and before that, Lynn. Reading was originally called Lynn Village.

From Hobbs: The area between the Charles and Merrimack rivers was the domain of Nanapashemet, chief of the Pawtuckets, who sometimes made his home near the falls of the Merrimack and occasion-ally on Sagamore Hill, on the coast. But in a long and bloody war with the Tarratines, those terrible fighters of eastern New England, Nanapashemet, the New Moon, had gone down in a crimson sky; and a terrible scourge, occurring shortly after, had so reduced the num-bers of Indians that when

the first settlers came, there were only scattering villages here and there, presided over by local sa-chems.

The old warlike spirit of the noble red men had given place to a more peaceful disposition, ready to receive whatever in the way of benefits the white men might bring. They were entirely willing to sell whatever land the set-tlers desired, and did not hesitate to sell the same parcel as many times over as they could find a pur-chaser — a practice prolif-ic of trouble for the set-tlers and business for the courts.

The Indians are repre-sented to have been tall and well-formed, and one impressionable writer speaks of "the unparal-leled beauty" of the Indian maidens, describing them as having "very good fea-tures, seldom without a come-to-me in their coun-tenance, all of them black-eyed, having even, short teeth, and very white, their hair black and long, broad-breasted, handsome, straight bodies, and slen-der thin limbs, cleanly, straight, generally plump as a partridge."

Hobbs writes of Indians in the legendary history, with verse from poet John Greenleaf Whittier: "The pathetic tale of the bride of Pennacook reaches far-thest back into the shad-owy vista of the past —

A story of the marriage of the chief

Of Saugus to the dusky Weetamoo

Daughter of Passacon-way, who dwelt

In the old time upon the Merrimack.

"The story is that Winne-purkit, as Morton has it, or, more properly, Winne-poyekin, son of Nana-pashmet, sagamore of Sau-gus, when he came to

man's estate, made choice, for his wife, of the daugh-ter of Passaconway, the great chieftain of the tribes inhabiting the Merrimack valley."

"The union of the young people was blessed by the mighty chieftain, and in due time, Weetamoo was seated in her lord's wig-wam on Sagamore Hill, with the broad bay spread out before her door, now shining like a burnished mirror in the sun, and then rolling its angry waves upon the beach in thunder-ous monotone, or dashing them on the rocks of Little Nahant.

"Before long, however, a homesick longing for a sight of her father filled her heart, and like a kind husband, Winnepurkit sent her home, escorted by some of his most mighty men. The daughter was re-ceived with open arms, and the escorts were cor-dially entertained and gra-ciously dismissed. After a short stay, she signified a desire to return to her noble husband. Her father sent messengers to Winne-purkit to notify him of the desire of his wife, and to request the Saugus sa-chem to dispatch a suit-able guard to escort his wife back through the wil-derness to her home.

"But here, an unexpected difficulty arose, for Win-nepurkit told the messen-gers to carry word to his father-in-law, 'That when his wife departed from him, he caused his own men to wait upon her to her father's territories, as did become him. But now that she had an intent to return, it did become her father to send her back with a convoy of his own people.'

"Both men were of high spirit and neither would yield, and so the poor princess was forced to

remain with her father, at least for a time."

Tradition has it, however, that her woman's wit found a way through or around the difficulty, and that she, after a while, made her way back to her husband's home.

Whittier, however, gives a different and tragic ending to the tale. In his poem, the heart-broken Bride of Pennacook determines to return alone. She steals away from her attendant maidens, launches her frail canoe upon the swollen and threatening Merrimack, and is instantly swept

"Down the vexed center of that rushing tide,

The thick, huge ice blocks threatening either side,

The foam-white rocks of Amoskeag in view

With arrowy swiftness —

Down the white rapids like a sere leaf whirled

On the sharp rocks and piled-up ices hurled,

Empty and broken, cir-cled the canoe

In the vexed pool below, but where was Weetamoo?"

Through the end of October Baker-Polito Administration announces free COVID-19 testing in 18 communities

BOSTON — The Baker-Polito Administration announced that the state's "Stop the Spread" initiative has extended free COVID-19 testing through Oct. 31.

The testing is avail-able in 18 high priority communities across the Commonwealth: Brock-ton, Chelsea, Everett, Fall River, Framing-ham, Holyoke, Law-rence, Lynn, Marlbor-ough, Methuen, New Bedford, Randolph, Re-ver, Salem, Saugus, Springfield, Winthrop, and Worcester.

The Stop the Spread initiative is a data-dri-ven targeted effort to re-duce the prevalence of COVID-19 in commu-nities that are above the state average in total cases and positive test

rates. All residents of these 18 communities, including asymptomatic individuals, are urged to get tested at one of these locations. These testing resources are open to all residents of the Com-monwealth.

Residents can visit the initiative's website at mass.gov/stopthespread to find testing locations and additional informa-tion. Residents are re-minded that if they test positive for COVID-19, please answer the call when they are contact-ed by the Community Tracing Collaborative or their local board of health. Also, any indi-vidual who needs a safe place to isolate can call (617) 367-5150 to access an isolation and recov-ery site at no cost.



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E L E C T

Dave Robertson
For State Representative

@RobertsonforRep

COMBATTING COVID WITH QUICK ACTION

When the worst public health crisis in 100 years broke out, Representative Robertson and his team leapt into action. Whether it was securing Personal Protective Equipment for first responders and hospitals or assisting with Paycheck Protection Program applications for our businesses, his office handled a year's worth of crisis in only a few months. Now, looking forward, Representative Robertson has brought resources home to ensure our schools have the resources to stay safe and our economy to recover.

Dave is that leader.

REFILL ☐ TIMES November 3, 2020, M.D.
DEA NO. _____ Address _____

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Dave Robertson



Letters to the editor

Robertson 'best qualified person' to serve towns

To the voters of Tewksbury and Wilmington,

As we approach the November election, we have an opportunity to continue the tenure of David Robertson as our State Representative. Two years ago, we elected David because he had already proven his commitment, professionalism and work ethic on local and State issues with his 10 years of prior service.

For the last two years as our elected State Representative, David has proven further that we can depend on him to serve us with diligence and integrity.

As a 33 year resident of Tewksbury and having served on the Planning Board and other town committees, I have interacted with David on several topics over the past 12 years, during his service at the Statehouse. Dave is always ready and able to get the job done. He knows all the 'ins and

outs' at the Statehouse and every topic and issue in Tewksbury and Wilmington. After being elected two years ago, he even hand-delivered to the Town of Tewksbury, the deed from the State to the Livingston Street Recreation Area land — something that no one else seemed to be able to get accomplished for over 50 years! David knows how to get things accomplished and he works tirelessly to do that for us!

With David at the State House, we can be assured that we have the best qualified person and the hardest worker doing the job. Dave has proven this many times over the years.

I hope you will join me and re-elect David Robertson for State Representative on Nov. 3!

Very sincerely,
Nancy Reed
Tewksbury

Trooper Devlin's family thanks community for outpouring of support

To the Wilmington community:

The family of Trooper Thomas W. Devlin is eternally grateful to the Town of Wilmington for the incredible outpouring of love and support that has been given to us. On Sept. 10 and 11, 2020, we were able to celebrate Tom's life due to the enormous professional and personal contributions of so many community members.

We thank Margaret McKenna and Nichol's Funeral Home for their kindness, compassion and diligence. We cannot thank Police Chief Joseph Desmond enough for his heartfelt concern and dedication to our family. We thank Town Manager Jeffrey Hull, the entire Board of Selectmen, George Hooper, Jerry Lawrenson and the Department of Public Works for graciously offering us the Wilmington High School fields to gather to celebrate Tom's life.

Our thanks to Fire Chief William Cavanaugh and the entire police and fire departments for their hard work and amazing presence. Along with the Massachusetts State Police, these community members threw themselves into making our celebration of Tom possible.

Thank you to Senator

Bruce Tarr, Representative Kenneth Gordon and Representative David Robertson for your continued support of Tom and his family. Our thanks to Lou Cimaglia for the beautiful memorial pins. We thank Margie Smolinski, Rick Lowe and Tremesso Restaurant for providing a venue for our family to gather and share stories of Tom after the celebration.

We thank the Massachusetts State Police for their unwavering support and dedication to Tom's family since the day of the accident. Tom loved being a Massachusetts State Trooper, and he was extremely honored to serve among the MSP.

We thank the Wilmington community for providing Tom and his wife Nancy a beautiful hometown to raise their children over the years. We are blessed with this wonderful community that has, and continues to, bestow upon us an abundance of love and encouragement. The generous and ongoing contributions to the Trooper Thomas W. Devlin Memorial Scholarship demonstrates this community's dedication to one another.

The Family of Trooper
Thomas W. Devlin

By PAUL J. ANDREWS
andrews@massupt.org
Mass. Ass'n. of School
Superintendents
Member of Board of
Winchester Hospital

This column will cover a few issues but most important will feature an important lead on the continuing saga of the "postal election folly" that has arisen in a department that has been the pride of the country for centuries.

Apparently, decisions were made to remove significant postal equipment months before a presidential election that will see a large number of ballots cast by mail.

However, some good news followed by bad news allows me to write that a federal judge in Washington State a week ago granted a request from 14 states to temporarily block operational changes within the US Postal Service that have been blamed for a slowdown in mail delivery, saying that "President Trump and Postmaster General Louis DeJoy are involved in a politically motivated attack on the efficiency of the Postal Service that could disrupt the 2020 election."

Chief Judge Stanley Bastian of the US District Court for the Eastern District of Washington said that harm "has already taken place" by changes put in place under DeJoy following a 2 ½ hour hearing by issuing the following statement: "the states have demonstrated that the defendants are involved in a politically motivated attack on the efficiency of the Postal Service. They have also demonstrated that this attack on the Postal Service is likely to irreparably harm the states' ability to administer the 2020 election."

He added, "this creates a substantial possibility that many voters will be disenfranchised and the

states may not be able to effectively, timely, accurately determine election outcomes."

WOW, once again, this is incredible.

A short note on the above for the legal scholars is that the scope and duration of the injunction were not clear, according to the Washington Post.

A quick summary of past columns has pointed out the issues of the apparent removal of mailing machines from several Postal Service operations plus other equipment removal and staff reductions. This became the reason for a congressional hearing with the relatively new postmaster general who, when asked by Congressman Stephen Lynch of South Boston if this equipment would be replaced, responded with a rapid "no." So now the court has ruled.

The questions left are what is next? What about turning around the process of improving the "election mailing process" so all who vote on or before the election day have their ballots count in the national totals so both parties have an accurate count and the rights of the voters are respected?

Education language update

Because I know all professions develop their own jargon, I am sensitive to some of that which leaks into the field of education over time and is understood by teachers and administrators but often not by parents. Let me try to clear up some recent meanings.

First, "deep learning" is one of those phrases that has moved into discussion. Author/consultants Jay McGigue and Harvey Silver refer to the fact that all educators want their students to learn deeply and well. They feel, for example, that such learning is rare in

many schools. They believe students have learned "deeply" when "they come to understand and make sense of important ideas and processes and are able to transfer those understandings to new content and contexts."

"Framing instruction" around "big ideas" is another of those education language concepts that addresses the issue of "big ideas" not suggesting that educators avoid teaching important facts and basic skills. The aim is simply to identify the "core ideas" that will serve as a conceptual lens for connecting discrete facts and skills and helping students make sense of them.

One way to keep instruction focused on "big ideas" is to anchor curriculum units in a few open-ended thought-provoking "essential questions" that challenge students to make sense of "big ideas" for example: in geography, how does where we live influence how we live?

In literature or English, a question could be the following: to what extent can fiction reveal "truth" or in mathematics asking when is the "correct" answer not the best solution or in science, asking the following: how are science and common sense related?

JUST A NOTE

While we often hear criticism in these pandemic days on a host of issues, I have to rave on the great work of those individuals who have worked everyday in local food stores, our clergy, hospital staff, doctors of office teams, school leadership and teaching staff, car repair centers, transportation staff, office secretaries, parents and yes our young people, plus those I am sure, I missed.

Following are some of the Morning Pulse extractions for your read-

ing: Wearables step up their game with a continued move from wellness apps to health monitors; Bank of Spain downgrades economic forecast and warns of slower recovery; Americans are more generous in their charitable giving during COVID-19; Modern recessions have taught young adults to save money earlier and they are succeeding; US Secret Service tracking millions in stolen coronavirus small business loans; Florida's rural real estate is booming amid COVID-19 pandemic; Isolation and loneliness impact physical and mental health; Hospitalization steady despite rising COVID-19 cases; Higher education was already ripe for disruption then COVID-19 happened; Higher education in America being built on mountains of debt; NY, NJ reach settlements on predatory student loan practices; Amazon to hire 100,000 to keep with on line shopping surge; Aging local population brings special surgical needs; VA data breach exposes personal information for 46,000 veterans; One in four workers alter pension contribution plans amid COVID-19; US still facing highly elevated unemployment numbers; Pandemic places nearly half of US households in financial peril; Tropical storm Sally forces oil companies to idle production in Gulf of Mexico; States and cities scramble to sue oil companies over climate change; In many countries, people are more negative about the economy amid COVID-19 than during the Great Recession; Planning provides peace of mind in troubling times; Disney World and rivals shift into survival mode and Data shows that workers are waiting much too long to start saving for retirement.

Resident supports 'hard-working' DiFruscia

Dear editor:

My name is Margie Ellsworth, and I've lived in Tewksbury for over 35 years. Not many candidates have come and knocked on my door but Alec DiFruscia did. That's one of the reasons why I'm supporting him to be our next State Representative.

It's hard to be a senior and a homeowner in Tewksbury. Taxes are going up faster than my social security check. Seniors like me are feeling the squeeze.

Alec DiFruscia has said

he will never vote for a tax increase. We need a fighter who isn't afraid to say no to the career politicians at the State House who want to reach into our wallets. Alec has worked hard his whole campaign and he will work even harder at the State House.

I ask you to join me in voting for Alec DiFruscia for State Representative in Tewksbury and Wilmington.

Margie Ellsworth
Tewksbury

~Recycling Tip of the Week~

Don't buy glass storage containers when your jelly jar, peanut butter jar, and spaghetti sauce jar can work double duty. Wash the jars and use them to store your leftovers instead of plastic containers or using expensive plastic wrap.

TMHS soccer car wash fundraiser

TEWKSBURY — Support the TMHS boys and girls soccer car wash fundraiser on Sunday, Oct. 4, 2020.

Girls JV & varsity 9 - 11 a.m. and Boys JV & varsity 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Merrimack Valley Pavilion, 2087 Main St., Tewksbury

Book Stew Review

'Keepers of the House' by Shirley Ann Grau

By EILEEN
MACDOUGALL

This 1964 Pulitzer Prize winning novel reads almost like historical fiction. It has a dreamy quality, but it's a nightmare for

Margaret, a "freejack" woman of Native American and Black ancestry, who meets a much older wealthy white widower, Will Howland, in her hidden backwater community. Abandoned by her moth-

er and seeing no life for herself in the crowded home of her grandfather, she moves in with Will and they build a life together with their four children. As Will is the wealthiest man in the area and has established most of the businesses that employ the residents, any community objections to their relationship are suppressed.

Margaret insists on sending their children away to boarding schools in New Orleans at a young age, where they pass for white. Will's daughter from his first marriage leaves her husband and returns home with her daughter Abigail, who adores her grandfather and accepts Margaret as housekeeper/stepmoth-

er, admiring the deep love between them.

She ends up marrying a man with political ambitions, and when he runs for office, the relationship between Will and Margaret, now both deceased, is exposed by Margaret's son, and wrecks his campaign and their marriage.

The story is told from the viewpoints of Will, Abigail, and Margaret, though her voice is the quietest, and that is the only flaw I can see. I think this book bears comparison to Toni Morrison's "Sula" and to the novels of Carson McCullers. The haunted South and its deep seated legacy of inherited misery is here in all its swamps and screams and secrets.

Want your opinion heard?

We LOVE your letters!
Send Letters to the Editor to:
office@yourtowncrier.com.

All submissions must be accompanied by full name, address, and daytime contact information for verification purposes.
Letters must be e-mailed by noon on Monday in order for consideration the same week's edition.

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Tewksbury - Wilmington

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OBITUARIES

Judith I. (Sumner) Foley

Lived in Wilmington for 53 years

Judith I. (Sumner) Foley, age 78, of Wilmington passed away peacefully on Sept. 22 surrounded by her loving family.

Judy grew up in Woburn and was the cherished daughter of the late Albert and Marguerite (Nolan) Sumner. Judy lived in Wilmington for 53 years where she adored spending time with her six children, 23 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Judy was the beloved mother of Stephen Foley and his wife Dorothy of Tewksbury, Marcia Vozzella and her husband Stephen, Donald Foley and his wife Catherine, Denise DePasquale and her husband the late Rocco, Diane Silva and her husband Ronald all of Wilmington, Timothy Foley and his wife Jennifer of Tewksbury, and the late James "Jimmie" Foley.

A loving "Nana" of Nicole Tranfaglia and her husband John, Jennifer Foley and her fiancé Alan

Hunte Jr., Courtney Cavanaugh, Brittany Cavanaugh, Brian Cavanaugh, Caitlin Hubacz and her husband Lane, Shane Foley, Brendan Foley, Colin Foley and his fiancé Maria Cahill, Drew Foley, Quinton Foley, Molly Foley, Samantha DePasquale, Lauren DePasquale, Nicholas Silva, Danielle Silva, Timothy Foley and his wife April, Shyne Alive, Ashley Foley, Dylan Foley, Mackenzie Foley, Scarlet Foley, Sebastian Foley, and great-grandmother of Siena, Finley, Adeline, Theo, Lily, Alana, Jemma, and Madelyn.

Loving sister to Annette Cocoluto and her husband Frank, and pre-deceased by Frances MacLean and husband Duncan, Barbara Pendergast and her husband William, Elizabeth Byrnes and her husband Norman, Roger Sumner, and Marguerite Nichols and her husband Charles.

Judy is survived by many



loving nieces and nephews.

Family and friends gathered for Visitation at the Nichols Funeral Home, Inc., 187 Middlesex Ave., (Rt. 62) Wilmington, on Friday, Sept. 25 from 5 - 8 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial for Judy took place on Saturday, Sept. 26 at 11 a.m. in St. Dorothy's Church, Main St. (rte. 38) Wilmington. Interment followed in Calvary Cemetery, Winchester.

www.nicholsfuneral-home.com

Michael P. Infantino

Passion for motorcycles, built custom bikes

Michael P. Infantino, a lifelong resident of Wilmington, passed away June 22, 2020, at the Lahey Hospital and Medical Center in Burlington. He was 62.

Born in Winchester, he was the son of the late Joseph A. and Kathleen (Maggiore) Infantino.

Michael was a 1976 graduate of Wilmington High School. He worked for many

years as a maintenance contractor. He was passionate about motorcycles and built many custom bikes over the years.

Michael is survived by his brothers, Joseph Infantino, Jr. and Mark Infantino, and his wife Teres, all of Wilmington.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend a graveside service that will be conducted,

Friday, October 2nd, at the Wildwood Cemetery, Wildwood St., Wilmington, at 11 a.m. All attending must wear a face mask and adhere to social distancing protocols. Arrangements by the Dello Russo Family Funeral Home of Wilmington.

To leave an online message of condolence please visit www.dellorusso.net

David S. Orndorff

US Army veteran, served in Vietnam War

David S. Orndorff, of Tewksbury formerly of Wilmington and Marshfield, passed away Sept. 13, 2020. He was 73.

Born in Lynn, David was the son of the late Delevan C. and Elizabeth (Field) Orndorff. He was the longtime companion of Dale Dodge of Tewksbury.

David was raised in Malden and Marshfield and was a 1965 graduate of Wilmington High School. Following high school David enlisted in the United States Army. He was a proud combat veteran and was the recipient of the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star Medal for his achievements against hostile forces during the Vietnam War.

David worked for the United States Postal Service and retired following more than 35 of service. David was an avid sports fan and for several years David was the head coach of the Wilmington High School basketball team and also coached the Lawrence High School basketball team where he was able to lead them to a Merrimack Conference Title, something he was very proud of.

David was always willing to volunteer his time for a good cause with many different charitable groups and organizations. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and was very involved in the organization of the annual Larry McGrath Memorial Bas-

ketball and Golf Tournaments which helped to raise money to provide scholarships to a male and female Wilmington High School student each year.

In his leisure time David enjoyed being outdoors and camping.

In addition to his longtime companion, Dale, he is survived by his brother, Del Orndorff and his companion Donna Forbes of Tamworth, NH.

He was the stepfather to Kelley, Eric, and Brett Dodge. Grandfather of Corey and Hunter MacArthur, and uncle of Leandra Sullivan of Las Vegas, NV and Jeannine Orndorff of Punta Gorda, FL.

A funeral service was conducted in the Dello Russo Family Funeral Home, 374 Main St., WILMINGTON, Tuesday, Sept. 22, at 11 a.m. Relatives and friends were respectfully invited to attend. Visiting hours were at the



Dello Russo Family Funeral Home were held on Monday, from 4 to 8 p.m.

David was laid to rest with Military Honors, Wednesday, Sept. 23, at 11:30 a.m. in the MA National Cemetery, Bourne. Contributions in David's memory can be made to Local Heroes, Inc. P.O. Box 536, Wilmington, MA 01887.

To leave an online message of condolence please visit www.dellorusso.net.

Frank Robert Matarese

Served in the United States Air Force

"Love expressed is never lost"

A resident of Wilmington for over 55 years, Frank Robert Matarese passed away Saturday, Sept. 19, 2020, at the Sawtelle Family Hospice House in Reading.

Bob was the beloved husband of the late Anna "Louise" (King) Matarese. The young couple were married on June 23, 1951. They met when Louise worked as a secretary for the John Hancock Insurance Co in Boston and Bob was attending the University of Massachusetts.

Frank, as he was professionally known, was a Stoneham educator for 32 years. Modest and unassuming, Frank was no stranger to heights; whether they are in school organizations or literally above the Earth, serving in the United States Army Air Force.

Frank graduated from Medford High School in 1941. Fresh out of high school he joined the Army Air Force and served honorably in the American, Asiatic, European and African Operational Theatres. Frank not yet 20 years of age was decorated four times. His duties included flying the "Hump" from India to China and back which included flying over the Himalayan Mountains.

As a flight radio operator, Staff Sergeant Matarese flew medium to heavy size bombers and cargo aircraft, accumulating over 1,700 flying hours. After surviving an aircraft crash in Africa, he became a proud disabled veteran.

Introduced to teaching while instructing air cadets on radio communications, Frank began working toward this goal as an undergraduate at the University of Massachusetts. The determination and drive that would mark his

professional life was already evident; for example, when serious injury while serving in Army Air Force ended his college career in football, he switched to soccer and made the varsity team.

His early years teaching in Burlington school system were invaluable to roles Frank would assume in the next 35 years. He taught on virtually every grade level and every subject from elementary through high school.

Essentially a scholar in Physical and Life Sciences, he earned advanced degrees from Tufts University and Worcester Polytechnic Institute. He was head coach of football, basketball and baseball and advised a host of school clubs and activities.

Frank was inducted into the Burlington High School Hall of Fame in 2016 as a coach of football, basketball and baseball. Perhaps these varied experiences explain his uncanny ability as superintendent to know everything that is happening in the school system, from a technique for teaching reading to the reasons a boiler is not running correctly.

Paul Rotondi, former School Committee Chairman, quoted, "I have known you as a teacher, coach, assistant superintendent, superintendent and most importantly as a friend. As a teacher, you taught me responsibility, as a coach, you taught me sportsmanship. As an administrator, you demonstrated by example, the true meaning of dedication, hard work and unselfishness. As a friend, you showed that philosophical differences and disagreements could not destroy loyalty or mutual respect."

Following his retirement, Frank and Louise enjoyed traveling extensively to places like Colorado, Al-



aska, Italy, France, Ireland and throughout the Caribbean, as well as many trips to Las Vegas and Foxwoods Casino to name a few. He will be forever missed by his family, neighbors and dear friends.

Frank was the devoted father of Robert G. Matarese and his wife Trudy of Avon, CO, Maureen M. Matarese of Manchester, NH and the late Mark M. Matarese.

Loving grandfather of Kathleen Louise "Katie" Matarese. Brother of the late Tina Depauw and Constance Matarese and is further survived by several extended family members.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated, Saturday, September 26th, in St. Thomas of Villanova Church, 126 Middlesex Ave, Wilmington, at 10 a.m. Relatives and friends were respectfully invited to attend. Services concluded with Military Honors and burial at Wildwood Cemetery, Wilmington. Arrangements by the Dello Russo Family Funeral Service of Wilmington.

To leave an online message of condolence please visit www.dellorusso.net It has been requested that in lieu of flowers contributions in Frank's memory may be made to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or to the New Horizons at Choate, 21 Warren Ave, Woburn, MA 01801.

Tewksbury Trails Challenge 2020

TEWKSBURY — The Tewksbury Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee announces the Tewksbury Trails Challenge 2020!

For the months of October and November, get out and explore the many walking trails in town. Use the Trails Challenge form to mark your progress and be entered to win a donated gift card from Tewksbury merchants!

Tag your photos with #TewksburyTrailsChallenge or submit them to open-space@tewksbury-ma.gov. Trail maps are on the town website or linked here: <https://rb.gy/rzhz50>.

We'll see you on the trails!

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TOWN OF TEWKSBURY SNOWPLOWING CONTRACTORS

The Tewksbury Department of Public Works Highway Division is seeking contractors for snowplowing the upcoming 2020-2021 winter season.

Interested contractors can obtain the contract documents and rates at the Tewksbury Department of Public Works Office located at 999 Whipple Road, Monday Thru Friday 8:00AM to 4:00PM beginning October 1, 2020.

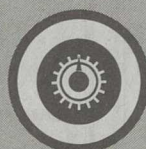
Information and questions can be directed to the Superintendent's Office at 978-640-4440.

Brian Gilbert, Director of Public Works

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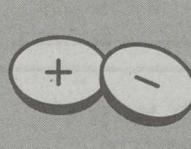
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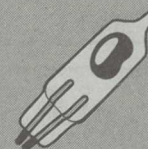
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Tewksbury Police Log

Methuen woman charged with unarmed robbery

Monday, September 21

10:47 a.m. - A 911 caller reported male and female party rang her buzzer and insisted that they needed to come in at Archstone Avenue. They were looking for the previous owner. Police sent. Party was advised it was elder services and they would call them.

12:08 p.m. - An erratic driver passed River Road occupied by an elderly male who passed the double lines into oncoming traffic several times. Police sent to the owner's home to see he made it made safely. Officer spoke with the operator who appeared to be fine.

4:06 p.m. - A 911 caller reported a customer at Dunkin Donuts would not leave the drive thru. Police sent. The vehicle had left the property.

6:08 p.m. - Police sent at Motel 6 attempting to serve a warrant. Joseph Fitzpatrick, 53, of 1359 Pawtucket Boulevard in Lowell, was

arrested and charged with a warrant for assault and battery.

10:27 p.m. - Police stopped a man at Oakdale Mall, but the suspect fled in his car after reportedly assaulting an officer with his car door. James Cann, 55, of 1 Utopia Road in Billerica was arrested and charged with assault and battery with dangerous weapon, failure to stop for police, speeding in violation special regulation, and reckless operation of motor vehicle.

Tuesday, September 22

9:56 a.m. - A 911 party called for possible robbery that occurred at Santander Bank. Police sent. Sara Diaz-Lebedel, 36, of 566 Merrimack St. in Methuen, was arrested and charged with unarmed robbery.

5:35 p.m. - Caller reported a suspicious motor vehicle at Heritage Drive. Police sent. Officer cleared, gone on arrival.

10:13 p.m. - While doing a

building check, a man found a bike in the back of the Autofair Nissan and key's hanging. Police sent. Officer did a walk through secured the building putting the keys inside.

Wednesday, September 23

12:20 a.m. - Caller reported a suspicious grey mini van parked at Trull Road and Whited Avenue. Vehicle was gone on arrival.

11:47 a.m. - A white SUV with a white male operating it just pulled up to the driveway and took a picture of the license plate on her vehicle. She went outside to ask what he was doing but he sped away. Police sent. The woman got a partial plate. Officer filed a report.

3:23 p.m. - Police off at Mystic Avenue in an attempt to serve a summons. Stacy Grandese, 37, of 115 Mystic Ave. in Tewksbury, was arrested and charged with a warrant for possession class A drugs and a warrant for possession of class B drugs.

10:30 p.m. - Female caller reported three vehicles were leaving Wamesit Lanes after drinking. The driver of a gray Ford pickup truck nearly hit the caller's vehicle in the parking lot. Police notified areas were checked, but gone on arrival.

Thursday, September 24

9:34 a.m. - A party walked into the station at Police Headquarters and wanted to speak to a detective about suspicious activity. Detective filed a report.

7:52 p.m. - Loss prevention requested to speak with an officer regarding suspicious parties that were in the store earlier at Walmart. Police sent and filed a report.

Friday, September 25

7:10 a.m. - A vehicle was left there over night with rejection sticker at Half Pints Day Care. No vehicles were to be left in the lot overnight. Vehicle was having mechanical issues. Management was given the

option of having it towed and declined. Units cleared.

11:02 a.m. - Caller reported a male party walking down the street at Chandler Street and Main Street. Police sent. Andrei Jefferson, 55, of 233 Geneva Ave. in Dorchester, was arrested and charged with a warrant for distribution class B drugs.

5:29 p.m. - Caller reported an erratic operator in a light blue Honda CRV took a right onto International Drive heading towards Andover Street. Police sent. They checked the area but the vehicle was gone on arrival.

10:15 p.m. - A suspicious group of four to five people walked near Lancaster Drive and Kendall Road. A little while back houses were getting egged. Police sent. They spoke with the group and all checked out.

Saturday, September 26

12:12 a.m. - Caller complained of a party coming from apartment below him at Archstone Avenue. Caller stated he tried to confront owner but when he tried the owner was aggressive and drunk. Police sent. The party agreed to keep it down.

12:44 p.m. - Ongoing suspicious activity at Carnation Drive. Police sent. Officer filed a report.

5:37 p.m. - A loud party with a band at East Street. Police sent. They spoke with the homeowners and they would turn down the music and would be leaving in the next hour.

9:15 p.m. - A 911 caller reported a large group of vehicles parked at Stadium Plaza. The caller reported two males fighting. Police sent and Lowell police department notified. No sign of anyone fighting.

10:44 p.m. - A 911 caller reported a male party had been banging on the door of her neighbor's apartment at Ames Hill Drive for the past 45 minutes. Police sent. The male party ran off into the woods and there was no answer at the door of the residence. Message was left for the resident.

Sunday, September 27

12:17 p.m. - Caller stated she was cussed at by a couple of kids in the skate park at Livingston Street. Police sent. They spoke with both parties and was having them do an area checked of the park frequently throughout the day.



Wilmington Police Log

Reading Cooperative Bank robbed at gunpoint

Friday, September 18:

5:40 a.m.: Three dozen vehicles were reportedly entered in the area of Columbia Street, Atlantic Avenue, Sheldon Avenue, and Beacon Street. The vehicles were entered overnight and all seemed only to have change, bills, or cigarettes missing from them.

12:54 p.m.: The Fire Department was called to extinguish smoking grass and mulch on Grove Avenue that seemed to be in danger of catching a fence on fire. A resident told firemen that the fire had been put out an hour before and that it was catching again. Upon arrival, the mulch seemed only to be smoking.

2:56 p.m.: The Reading Cooperative Bank was robbed at gunpoint by a man de-

scribed as wearing a full face shield with a red, white, and blue rag under it and a black helmet, gloves, jacket, pants, shoes, and sunglasses. The bank tellers put bait money in with the regular money for identification, though they could not indicate the robber's direction of travel. Police managed to use security footage to get an approximate direction of travel and a basic description of the robber's motorcycle, which was also black, possibly with some amount of blue. State police informed Wilmington police that a man fitting the description also robbed the People's United Bank in Lowell. The case was referred to a detective.

Saturday, September 19:

4:38 a.m.: After another round of vehicle entries in the Broad Street area in which 12 vehicles were

entered and property including a laptop was stolen, police made two arrests. Jennifer Chavez-Hernandez, 24, of 72 Willow St. in Chelsea was charged with five counts of receiving stolen property valued under \$1,200, three counts of possession of class E drugs, one count of possession of class A and B drugs, and driving an uninsured vehicle with revoked registration. Christopher Perez-Valladares, 24, of 76 Willow St. in Chelsea was charged with identical drug charges and five counts of receiving stolen property.

7:29 a.m.: A Chevrolet Volt struck a deer on Shawheen Avenue. The injured deer was dispatched and left for Animal Control.

9:26 a.m.: Four yard signs were reported stolen from a house on Burling-

ton Avenue.

11:17 a.m.: The owner of a Toyota RAV4 parked on Cypress St. reported that \$10 and a pair of name brand sunglasses were missing from his vehicle.

11:32 a.m.: A Honda CR-V and a Ford F-150 were reportedly entered while parked on Crescent Street and cash was stolen.

2:09 p.m.: A witness at Elia's Country Store on Middlesex Avenue reported an elderly woman in a disposable mask hitting a pre-teen boy on a bike with her red Honda Accord. The witness was able to provide a license plate for the car, as well as the information that the child had not been wearing a helmet and the directions that both parties went after they left. Police managed to find the elderly woman,

but could not find the child, and the woman and child did not exchange any information on their own.

3:08 p.m.: A Joe Biden lawn sign was reported stolen overnight from a Faulkner Avenue residence.

4:14 p.m.: The owner of a Nissan Rogue reported being rear ended by an unknown vehicle while stopped on the I-93 off ramp onto Route 129. The incident resulted in minor damage to the Rogue's left bumper.

Sunday, September 20:

3:05 p.m.: A motorcyclist was taken to Lahey for injuries sustained in a collision with a Volvo S60 at the intersection of Burlington Avenue and Castle Drive. The Volvo's driver refused medical attention.

Monday, September 21:

7:45 a.m.: A Hyundai Santa Fe rear ended a Chevrolet Malibu at the intersection of Main Street and Lowell Street.

7:28 p.m.: Police moved a deceased deer to the side of the road on Burlington Avenue to clear traffic. The Department of Public Works was notified for removal.

9:31 p.m.: A Chevrolet Silverado was seen hitting a mailbox on Everett Avenue and leaving the scene. An officer located the vehicle at the town beach,

where they found that the same vehicle had also hit an Acura TL while turning around. Police assisted with an exchange of information between the owners of the Silverado and the damaged properties.

Tuesday, September 22:

9:33 a.m.: The driver of a Toyota Sienna was taken to Winchester Hospital after they rear ended a Nissan Sentra while experiencing a serious medical issue. The Sienna was towed from the intersection of Middlesex Avenue and Federal Street.

5:17 p.m.: A double mailbox was stolen from Woburn Street.

Wednesday, September 23:

6:34 a.m.: Police assisted the Fire Department with an incident in which a truck caught fire on I-93.

11:41 a.m.: The Fire Department responded to a report of an odor of sulfur on Cunningham Street.

Thursday, September 24:

1:15 p.m.: Police brought an opossum to an animal rehabilitation facility after it was found injured on Eames Street.

2:30 p.m.: The owner of a Ford Taurus reported that a tree struck and damaged his vehicle in multiple areas, including his windshield, while he was driving down Salem Street.

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Class of 2013 health records to be destroyed

To the members of the Wilmington High School Class of 2013: In accordance with the Student Record Regulations of 1976, this is to notify you that the Massachusetts School Health Records of the Class of 2013 will be destroyed on Nov.

14, 2020.

If you wish to receive these records, please contact Kimberly Dragone, Clerical Assistant at Health Services for Wilmington Public Schools at 978-694-6060 x6615 to arrange pick up.

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Celebrate Halloween all month long

By **HEATHER BURNS**
News Correspondent

The start of October brings to mind all that is scary. Spooky jack-o-lanterns, haunted houses, and of course, ghost stories.

Memories of haunted tales and spooky yarns spun by the fireside can still lead to a sleepless night. This seems to hold especially true for New Englanders.

Perhaps because of its historical significance, New England has long been the hotbed for haunted folklore, and is also the home of some of America's greatest horror writers such as Edgar Allan Poe, Shirley Jackson, and Stephen King.

Each of these authors put their own personal New England spin on the art of ghost story telling, collectively terrifying their audiences for hundreds of years.

Ghost stories date back to the first century A.D. when Roman author and statesman, Pliny the Younger, first mentioned a ghost story in one of his letters.

He told of an "old man like" specter with chains and a long beard that would haunt his house in Athens.

In the 16th century, the stories of ghost sightings were prevalent, especially after the death of Anne Boleyn, the second wife of King Henry VIII. Boleyn was executed after being accused of witchcraft, treason, incest and adultery. After her death, sightings of her ghost were reported at her place of execution, The Tower of London, as well as numerous other locations around England.

Hauntings and ghost stories continued on throughout history, and found their way to the newly established American Colonies in 1692, with the Salem Witch Trials. This is one of the earliest American examples of mass hysteria provoked by the beliefs of witches, ghosts and the supernatural realm.

Today in New England,

the art of the ghost story is alive and well, with many historical landmarks attached to haunted myths and stories. Even locally there are a few sites that are whispered to have tales of unproven ghost sightings.

Growing up in Tewksbury, I have heard (but have never seen) many versions of stories about ghosts and specters that haunt the Tewksbury State Hospital and the Tewksbury Cemetery. I am sure the same can be said for almost any cemetery across the U.S.A. during the Halloween season, but I must admit, driving by one of these places at dusk (especially in the month of October) will occasionally send a chill running down my spine.

The same can be said for the nearby Harold Parker State Forest in Andover, with ghost story warnings of phantom footsteps in the night, the haunted horseback rider of Old Dudley Road in Billerica, or the ghosts that haunt the halls of the Old Worthington Pub in Lowell.

Each of these haunting tales could make the hair on the back of your neck stand tall. There seems to almost be something in the air during the month of October that makes the wild idea of a ghost story believable.

Not to be a Halloween party-pooper, but it must be pointed out that there is not a shred of physical evidence for all of the local haunted legends, as well as the more famous haunted stories that are told throughout New England.

So how do these unfounded ghost stories continue from generation to generation?

At this time of year, perhaps there is a small part of all of us that wants to believe these tales are true, and enjoy the "scare of the season," so to speak.

Many believe that it is not the actual ghost story that we hold true, but the realist way the story was portrayed to us that encourages the re-telling of



▲ Tewksbury Cemetery

(Heather Burns photos)

these unlikely haunted accounts.

The entertaining telling of a ghost story around the campfire, a bedtime fable, or even a colorful account of an occurrence is a true form of art that one must learn to master.

Luckily, just in time for Halloween, you can hone your ghost story telling craft with the help of The Stomping Ground Comedy Theater Group.

Starting on Oct. 5, 2020, the Stomping Ground Theater Group is offering an online Halloween Story Telling Class, titled "Telling Scary Stories".

This four-week long virtual class will practice the art of scary story telling by helping to explore elements used to create and develop a frightening story line and prepare for a storytelling performance.

The initial focus will be on finding inspiration and sources for your own scary story.

Students will also be introduced to the art of building suspense and tension into your audience and how to keep your audience engaged with the use of details and specifics.

This class will also review performance techniques to enhance your storytelling abilities.

The virtual class meets on Mondays, Oct. 5, 12, 19, and 26 from 8 to 10 p.m.

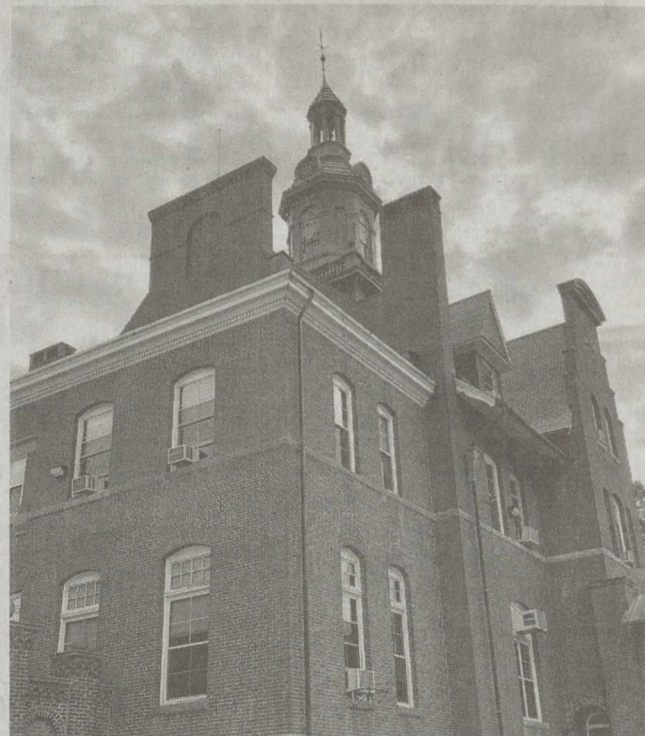
For class pricing and registration, visit www.eventbrite.com/e/halloween-storytelling-special-telling-scary-stories-tickets or visit The Stomping Ground Theater Group at www.stompinggroundcomedy.com.

For those looking for a way to express their haunted stories in written form, rather than the art of verbal storytelling, the Tewksbury Public Library is sponsoring a virtual Writing Group that will meet on Oct. 20 from 7 to 8:45 p.m.

This group for aspiring writers will be facilitated by author Dale T. Phillips, who also was a college writing teacher for Stephen King, among other impressive accomplishments.

If you prefer to be on the listening end of a ghost story, the Tewksbury Public Library has several online, virtual programs worth listening to in order to get your fill of fright.

On Oct. 28, from 7 - 8 p.m. New England's premiere storyteller, Jeff Belanger will present high-



▲ Tewksbury State Hospital

lights of New England Ghost and Legends, featuring stories from his books, research, and podcasts on the subject of ghost stories. He will also explore the reasons behind the haunted legends.

On Oct. 30, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., the TPL will present the virtual program Fright Nights: Ghosts of the Berkshires. This online Zoom meeting will feature the ghostly hauntings of Western Massachusetts and is the lead in for an online ghost tour of The Mount in Lenox, MA. Registration is required for both of these storytelling events.

To register for the writing group or to participate in either of the Zoom online storytelling events, visit the calendar of events at www.tewksburypl.org.

It doesn't matter if you prefer headless horsemen, haunted mansions, or simply "things that go bump in the night," as all will provide you with an equally unsettling night's sleep.

Sleepless night aside, what better way to have some haunting Halloween fun than to be on the giving or receiving side of a good, old fashioned ghost story!

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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9/30

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HOW TO PLAY:

Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

1	2	6	7	9	4	8	5	3
7	9	8	2	8	9	6	4	1
8	5	4	3	1	6	9	7	2
9	3	2	1	6	8	4	5	7
6	7	1	4	5	3	2	9	8
5	4	8	9	7	2	1	3	6
2	8	9	6	3	7	5	1	4
4	1	7	5	2	9	8	6	3
3	6	5	8	4	1	7	2	9

NOIUTLOS

ACROSS

- 1 "Star Wars" director
- 6 Puts off till later
- 12 Not digital
- 14 Ramping one
- 15 Agree
- 16 Naval force
- 17 Gonzalez's gold
- 18 Like some hours
- 19 Wave maker
- 21 Nocturnal predator
- 23 Takes a snooze
- 27 Was a candidate
- 28 Rural elec. provider
- 29 Toss here and there
- 30 Assistance
- 31 Rand of "Atlas Shrugged"

DOWN

- 32 All kidding —
- 33 Book jacket ad
- 35 NFL scores
- 37 Mournful
- 38 Drills holes
- 39 What — you doing?
- 40 Capt.'s heading
- 41 Spinach is rich in it
- 42 Fruit cooler
- 43 Devotee
- 44 Windhoek's cont.
- 46 Cribbage card
- 48 Colonial dance
- 51 Dream up
- 55 Barbecues
- 56 Physician
- 57 Absorbedly
- 58 Finger-paint

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13					
15										
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38						39			40	
41					42			43		
				44	45					
48	49	50					51		52	53
55							56			
57							58			

- 11 Tijuana "Mrs."
- 13 Super
- 19 Chantey singer
- 20 Long-distance race
- 22 Newspaper notice (2 wds.)
- 24 Greets a new day
- 25 Bookish one
- 26 Garbo or Bergman
- 27 Temple figure
- 28 File labels
- 29 Info request encl.
- 34 French automaker
- 36 Wet thoroughly
- 42 — crafts
- 43 Skyscraper part (hyph.)
- 45 Took a spill
- 47 Raw minerals
- 48 Exec
- 49 Novelist — Levin
- 50 Tweak
- 52 Stout
- 53 Orange pekoe
- 54 Use poor judgment

Leader of the (North) Pack: hiking the Wapack Trail

By **PAIGE IMPINK**
News Correspondent

paige@yourtowncrier.com

North Pack Monadnock is found along the Wapack Trail, one of the oldest public hiking trails in the country. We previously hiked Pack Monadnock and returned to hike North Pack.

The area is part of the Wapack National Wildlife Refuge and is accessed by a variety of trails, including the Wapack Trail and Ted and Carolyn's trails. We hiked Ted's trail from Old Mountain Road in Greenfield, New Hampshire, about an hour away.

One item of note: hiking from Old

Mountain Road does not require a reservation. Street parking is the only access. However, if you are hiking other locations in New Hampshire, check ahead for reservations now implemented due to COVID-19.

We hiked the easy trail in just a few hours, as it is three miles long and well worn. Despite the many cars, we didn't encounter too many folks, and when we did, we just stepped aside, put on our masks, and waited for them to pass.

There are pine and deciduous forests along the route, with intact stone walls lacing the hill. There are some sections where tree roots are plentiful but for the most part the trail is smooth. It is said that on a

clear day, Manchester can be seen from the summit, though we did not have such luck.

There are several boardwalks along the trail traversing what should be mountain streams. We had read there are waterfalls, but not right now. Unfortunately, during this time of drought, there was no running water anywhere.

We were pleased, however, that there were no bugs on the trail, but birds, squirrels and chipmunks were active. Ted's and Carolyn's trails meet up with the Cliff Trail, a loop that gives access to some views, though not as sweeping as Pack Monadnock simply by virtue of being a smaller mountain.

The refuge itself is 1,672 acres. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the refuge supports hawk migration areas and is a nesting habitat for migratory songbirds such as the tree sparrow, Swainson's thrush, magnolia warbler, crossbills, pine grosbeaks and white-throated sparrow.

The USFWS also states that the refuge has a wide variety of wildlife including deer, bear, coyote, fisher, fox, mink and weasel.

For a map of the North Pack trails we'd suggest using a site such as Alltrails. There were no paper maps at the trail head, though there was a trailhead guide which we'd suggest photographing before heading out. Enjoy!



Beautiful fall color at North Pack Monadnock. (Paige Impink photo)

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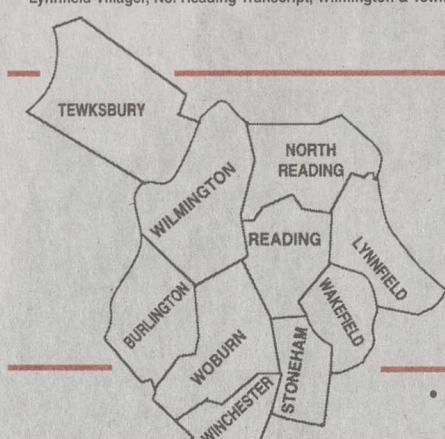
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WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, OCTOBER 1, 2020 - PAGE A8



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Question 2 on November ballot

Ranked Choice Voting on the ballot this November

By RYAN LAROCHE

If you've turned on your TV in the past month, you've no doubt seen a commercial for Question 1 on the November election ballot, Right to Repair. What you may not have seen, though, is a commercial for Question 2, Ranked Choice Voting. In fact, this article right here may be the first time you're even hearing about such a question.

But what is Ranked Choice Voting? According to Rev. Vernon K. Walker, Public Policy Director of the Young Democrats of Massachusetts, it is an "opportunity for voters to rank their candidates, in order of preference, for state-wide races."

This means voters can't rank their preferred presidential candidates (sorry, Kanye West supporters), but if it passes, it means they can rank their preferred candidates in local races such as State Representative and State Senator or US Representative and US Senator.

Right now, Massachusetts has a plurality system whereby the winner is the candidate who receives the most votes, regardless of the percentage of votes he or she receives. For example, if five candidates ran for State Representative to serve Reading or Stoneham or Burlington or wherever, and the winner received 19 percent of the vote, he or she would win despite 81 percent of voters saying "you're not our choice."

However, as Rev. Walker notes, "Ranked Choice Voting gives people more choice and more freedom. It's simple, fair and easy."

Under Ranked Choice Voting, a candidate, in a race of three or more people, needs 50 percent of the vote to win. How it goes: voters rank their candidates in order of preference; if a candidate doesn't receive 50 percent of the vote, the candidate who receives the least amount of votes is "eliminated" and the votes are re-tallied with the eliminated candidate's votes going

to whomever those voters ranked second. If no one receives 50 percent after the re-tally, then the process continues by "eliminating" the lowest vote getter and giving his or her votes to whomever his or her voters ranked next highest.

The process continues until one candidate receives 50 percent of the vote.

"The winners more accurately reflect the will of the people," Rev. Walker pointed out.

For those voters who go to the polls only to vote for one specific candidate, they can rank that candidate in all the available spaces (if there are five candidates, a voter could rank his or her preferred choice in all five slots). However, if that candidate is eliminated, the voter would have no more votes to give out thereby making his or her vote basically null-and-void.

If passed, Ranked Choice Voting would occur for both the primary and general elections by 2022.

Rev. Walker believes this gives more power to regular citizens and it would help smaller, more grassroots campaigns (not to mention women and minority candidates).

"Politics is tearing us apart," the Reverend admitted, "but Ranked Choice Voting would take out the big money."

He added how candidates would have to appeal to more people. Rev. Walker likened it to going to an ice cream shop that doesn't have your favorite flavor, but they still have other flavors from which to choose.

"Ranked Choice Voting gives voters more power," the Reverend pushed.

One state has already adopted this measure. In 2016, Maine voters approved Ranked Choice Voting, and even though the Republican party attempted to challenge it, just last week Maine's Supreme Court ruled in favor of the voters and the state's Democratic secretary of state.

According to an article on CNN, the five-

Your Ranked-Choice Ballot

Rank up to 4 candidates. Mark no more than 1 oval in each column.	First Choice	Second Choice	Third Choice	Fourth Choice
Candidate A	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate B	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate C	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate D	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

judge panel ruled last week the secretary of state acted correctly in rejecting a ballot referendum on the future of Ranked Choice Voting, which would have meant Maine couldn't use the method during this year's election.

However some opponents of rank choice voting argue the system is to new, will require education about how it works, ballots and the counting of the ballots will be more expensive, the "vetting" is less clear, and you could still fail to get a candidate with a majority.

It is new - A certain percentage of people don't like change. This can make them unhappy, or might make them decide to not participate.

It will require education about how it

works - Voters may leave the polling location confused or leave without voting properly.

The ballots and the counting of the ballots will be more expensive - It either requires a computer system, or is labor intensive to count by hand, with potential risk of errors. But security and integrity of our elections will require having a "paper trail" so that we can do recounts, and know the results are valid.

The "vetting" is less clear - The U.S., has very few requirements for what a person must do to run for office and be on a ballot. With primaries, the idea is that there is so much publicity that voters in later primaries, and then in the general

Voting TO B-2

Movie Reviews & Box Office News

Millie Bobby Brown has fun with 'Enola Holmes'

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

There is a long, questionable and occasionally successful tradition of spinning off iconic literary and film characters through relatives distant and not from James Bond Jr. to John Shaft II and III. In other words, it's not

out of bounds that someone would come along and invent a little sister for Sherlock Holmes and eventually make a movie out of it.

Enola Holmes is the creation of American author Nancy Springer who wrote a series of six young adult novels about Sherlock and Mycroft's teenage sister who becomes a detective in her own right. The light-hearted and enjoyable film adaptation stars "Stranger Things" Millie Bobby Brown as the titular character in an origin story that is clearly an attempt to start a franchise. Thankfully it isn't merely a "set-up" film.

We're introduced to Enola by Enola herself, who breaks the fourth wall and directly addresses the camera and audience to tell us about how her mother raised her after her much older brothers left early. It's no surprise that the director, Harry Bradbeer, directed almost every episode of "Fleabag," which relied heavily on this technique as well.

Enola, who tries not to think too much about the significance of the fact that her name backwards spells "Alone," is clever and spirited and wholly isolated from the world and the social mores of Victorian-era England. She and her mother (a lovely Helena Bonham-Carter) who are fiercely independent except from each other, use their estately mansion as a playground. They practice archery and tennis indoors, blow things up in the name of science, read books and generally don't seem all that concerned with the upkeep of anything but their minds.

So it comes as a shock when Enola wakes up one

morning to find her mother gone. Even more disconcerting is when her brothers Sherlock (a probably too buff Henry Cavill) and Mycroft (Sam Claflin) return to take care of her and the estate, they don't recognize her. The grown men are also horrified that their little sister is so rough around the edges — no hat, no comes a detective in her own right. The light-manners or decorum — and decide that she must be sent to finishing school.

Naturally, Enola is not excited about the prospect of finding a husband or fitting into society and instead sneaks off to try to track down her mother instead. On her journey she becomes entangled in the life of a fellow runaway, The Viscount Tewksbury, Marquess of Basilwether (Louis Partridge), who becomes her first client.

Brown is a natural star and seems to be having a lot of fun with Enola and getting to do something a little more carefree than portraying the trauma stricken Eleven. And besides a gnarly head injury late in the film, "Enola Holmes" is an all-ages endeavor.

The biggest knock against "Enola Holmes" is it feels like it should or could have been a series. It's very long and even this first story feels naturally episodic as she goes back and forth between searching for her mother and helping Tewksbury. The second is that the screenplay is only credited to Jack Thorne and this script could have benefited from a woman's involvement. Its feminist touchstones veer on cliché.

Brown did have a hand in producing the film,

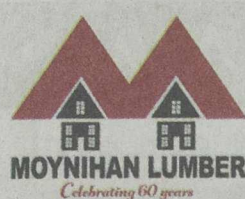
Movie to B-2



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Voting from page B-1

election, will have learned the candidates' weaknesses and be better informed before voting. If there are no primaries, the public may need to figure out how to "vet" candidates better, or pass more requirements for candidates to qualify to run.

Some argue you could still fail to get a candidate with a majority. If enough voters do not give any votes to their lower choices, then you could fail to get a candidate who ends up with a majority, after all.

What if 10 candidates run? Voters would be expected to rank all 10 candidates and may know nothing about many of the candidates other than their top choice.

But in Massachusetts, Ranked Choice Voting has at least one high-profile supporter in Senator (and former Democratic presidential candidate) Elizabeth Warren. In an opinion piece published in the Boston Globe, she wrote: "To defend our democracy, we need to fortify it. One way is by strengthening the principle of majority rule while defending and protecting the rights of all individuals, including those in the minority. Massachusetts voters have a chance to do just that in November by approving ranked-choice voting on Question 2."

Rev. Walker agrees: "Ranked Choice Voting gives voters a stronger voice. It can empower and reenergize voters."

The Reverend also noted how New York City approved Rank Choice Voting for its mayoral and city council races.

Locally, had Ranked Choice Voting existed in 2020, it may have impacted the race for US Senate. Although most people are aware of the race between incumbent US Senator Ed Markey and challenger US Congressman Joe Kennedy III, Rev. Walker notes there were actually other candidates in the race who dropped out early. With Ranked Choice Voting, those candidates may have stayed until the end.

"This would discourage negative campaigns," the Reverend suggested, "and reduce the 'spoiler' effect."

Spoiler candidates generally siphon off votes from one major party candidate to help the other, major party candidate. For example, many people see Kanye West as a spoiler candidate for Democrat Joe Biden. Or, some people believe Ross Perot spoiled President George H. W. Bush's re-election chances against President Bill Clinton back in 1992.

Rev. Walker also said instituting Ranked Choice Voting would eliminate the need to choose "the lesser of two evils."

He added: "This will incentivize candidates to pay more attention."

Besides Sen. Warren, Rev. Walker said 100s of elected officials in the state have endorsed Ranked Choice Voting, plus various unions.

"This will strengthen our democracy and make sure every vote counts," he stressed.

But a recently published report questions whether rank choice voting would survive a legal challenge.

As reported in the Globe earlier this week, "Ranked-choice voting, as proposed in Question 2, would usher in a 'dramatic shift' to Massachusetts elections, though many of its long-term ramifications — on everything from turnout to campaign spending — remain largely unknown, the Center for State Policy Analysis at Tufts University said in a newly released report.

"There 'may be a constitutional problem' should voters approve the system, according to the report, which did not take a position on the ballot question. The state's constitution says that for state offices, the person 'having the highest number of votes' is the winner — wording that creates a potential conflict with a ranked-choice system, where the person with the most initial votes may not necessarily win.

"Should a legal challenge prevail, it could block ranked-choice voting from being used in general elections for state offices, according to the center's report. Primaries and federal elections, it says, would not be affected."

For more information on Ranked Choice Voting, the League of Women Voters in Winchester is holding a "Yes on 2" event on Monday, Oct. 5 at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Please note: You need to register here (<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYvd->

qvqDgoGNwkuh9vEJGTCKauhw7tV2Xy%20) to attend this LIVE VIRTUAL EVENT or to receive a link to the recording via email the next day.

Tewksbury & Wilmington Libraries to host 'Longmire' Author Craig Johnson on October 3

The Tewksbury Public Library and Wilmington Memorial Library have joined forces to host bestselling author Craig Johnson for a Zoom webinar on Saturday, October 3, 2020 at 7pm.

Johnson will discuss his brand new book -- Next To Last Stand: A Longmire Mystery -- in conversation with moderator Hank Phillippi Ryan in this Zoom webinar. Space is limited. Registration is required and can be found at www.tinyurl.com/nexttolaststand.

While this virtual event is completely free, attendees can purchase an autographed copy of the book to be shipped to their homes from the event's bookstore partner - Wellesley Books - at www.tinyurl.com/buynexttolaststand.

Craig Johnson is the New York Times bestselling author of the Longmire mysteries, the basis for the hit Netflix original series "Longmire." He is the recipient of the Western Writers of America Spur Award for fiction, and his novella Spirit of Steamboat was the first One Book Wyoming selection. He lives in Ucross, Wyoming, population twenty-five.

Next To Last Stand is the new novel in the beloved bestselling Longmire series. One of the most viewed paintings in American history, Custer's Last Fight, copied and distributed by Anheuser-Busch at a rate of over two million copies a year, was destroyed in a fire at the 7th Cavalry Headquarters in Fort Bliss, Texas, in 1946.

Or was it? When Charley Lee Stillwater dies of an apparent heart attack at the Wyoming Home for Soldiers & Sailors, Walt Longmire is called in to try and make sense of a piece of a painting and a Florsheim shoebox containing a million dollars, sending the good sheriff on the trail of a dangerous art heist.

This event is sponsored by a collection of North of Boston libraries, including the Memorial Hall Library in Andover, Billerica Public Library, Flint Memorial Library in North Reading, Tewksbury Public Library, Wilmington Memorial Library, and Woburn Public Library.

Movie

from page B-1

however, which is itself a neat message. Whether or not it becomes a franchise will remain to be seen. "Enola Holmes" was supposed to be a theatrical release and Netflix jumped in to take it early in the pandemic. But regardless of whether or not there are more, "Enola Holmes" is the kind of movie that the preteen set will surely delight in and watch over and over. I know I would have.

"Enola Holmes," a Netflix release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for "some violence." Running time: 123 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.



NEW HOLMES - Henry Cavill, from left, Sam Claflin, and Millie Bobby Brown in a scene from the Netflix film "Enola Holmes." (Alex Bailey/Netflix via AP)

MPAA Definition of PG-13: Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



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Athletes & Activities

By: Steve Algeri

• **MIDDLESEX EAST SPORTS WEEKLY TRIVIA:** Former Red Sox manager John McNamara died on July 28 of this year. Who did he replace as Red Sox manager at the start of the 1985 season?

Answer appears below:

MIAA should be ruling on alignment proposals this week

In late August the MIAA's Tournament Management Committee delayed a couple of items in regard to the new statewide tournament scheduled to begin this fall. The TMC delayed its findings on alignment proposals which were to be announced on Sept. 1 but it pushed that back to Oct. 1 since there was really no urgency.

Given the pandemic and schools not beginning Fall I practices until last Monday (Sept. 21) there were others matters taking priority.

The MIAA is also reviewing its transition to power rankings for tournament seeding. The TMC originally settled on MaxPreps but pushed back its implementations until at least the winter season — provided there will be a tournament (there are no MIAA tournaments this fall).

Some concerns about MaxPreps arose regarding certain components of the rankings — the proprietary formula, use of point differential in the calculations, an issue with the handling of tied games. The TMC agreed to reconvene a subcommittee to further explore MaxPreps or other options.

High school soccer restrictions now include giving officials their space

Yellow and red cards have been on the rise recently in Massachusetts high school

soccer, so with the pandemic in mind, effective immediately, when the new season begins this Saturday (Oct. 3), any player that moves inside a six-foot perimeter of an official to argue a call will receive an automatic red card. The rule change was spurred on by a letter to the soccer committee.

The rule is written for players, but it will at the referee's discretion if a coach is also disrespectful, under the heading "Interaction with Officials," and 2020 modifications for COVID-19, "Athletes should not approach a referee closer than six feet at any time."

Massachusetts high school soccer has already implemented noticeable modifications when the season begins to facilitate social distancing: no slide tackling, throw-ins will become "kick-ins," goalies cannot propel the ball past midfield, no headers, and teams will play quarters instead of halves. Masks must be worn at all times unless a player is not around an opponent or teammate, and ends of quarters will serve as mask breaks.

High school Fall I season gets underway

With golf having begun this week, the Middlesex League area will see the start for field hockey and boys and girls soccer, games. As noted game will only be against other division rivals. So Liberty Division teams will only play each other while the Freedom Division will do the same. And they will play each team in back-to-back games.

Games will be played exclusively on Saturdays with the exception of Columbus Day (Oct. 12) and Veterans Day (Nov. 11). It will be a 10-game season with the final

games begin played on Saturday, Nov. 21.

There will be no team buses this season, part of the reason games will only be played on Saturdays and holidays, so that parents can drive their players to the game sites.

Middlesex League golf appears to be the least affected as it will play its normal 10-match schedule, but also only against division members in a home-and-home situation. The Middlesex League golf season was to begin earlier this week.

Cross country will be a five-meet season with Reading and Winchester boys beginning this Saturday while its girls meet, as well as the rest of the teams in the ML, will begin the following Saturday (Oct. 10).

UMass football is back on; schedule being put in place

The University of Massachusetts announced last Monday (Sept. 21) that it intends to schedule and play a limited number of football games this fall. The decision was reached following a positive review of the football program's stringent COVID-19 safety protocols and rigorous testing regimen, in place since players' return to campus in June. It follows announcements from college football conferences across the country also returning to play this fall and reverses a department decision on August 11 to postpone football competition until the spring.

UMass is focused on a competitive start date in mid-October with development of a competitive multi-contest schedule already underway. All opponents, game dates and sites for the 2020 season will be announced as they are confirmed and will be scheduled based on the ability to

HomeNewsHere RECIPE



SNICKERDOODLE APPLE COBBLER

Ingredients

- Topping**
- 1 pouch (17.5 oz) Betty Crocker™ sugar cookie mix
 - 1/2 cup butter, softened
 - 1 egg
 - 5 teaspoons sugar
 - 3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- Filling**
- 10 cups sliced peeled apples (10 medium)
 - 1/2 cup sugar
 - 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
 - 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 - 2 teaspoons lemon juice

STEPS

1. Heat oven to 375°F. Spray 13x9-inch (3-quart) glass baking dish with cooking spray.
2. In large bowl, stir cookie mix, softened butter and egg with spoon until soft dough forms. In small bowl, mix 5 teaspoons sugar and 3/4 teaspoon cinnamon until blended. Set aside.
3. In another large bowl, stir Filling ingredients until

well coated. Spread evenly in baking dish. Drop dough by rounded tablespoonfuls evenly over filling (some apple slices will show). Sprinkle sugar-cinnamon mixture on top.

4. Bake 30 to 34 minutes or until cookies are golden brown and edges of fruit filling are bubbly. Cool 10 minutes before serving. Serve with ice cream or sweetened whipped cream.

meet campus and state regulations.

Reading's WILL CONNERY is listed as a 5-10, 175-pound redshirt senior wide receiver on the roster.

"The health and safety of our student-athletes, coaches and staff has always been our first priority," said director of athletics Ryan Bamford. "Since returning to campus in June, the members of our football program have been vigilant in following the policies and safety protocols instituted by the state, our university and athletics department, helping us reach a high level of confidence that we can safely conduct a truncated season this fall. Further, our recent work to generate a schedule in the spring semester, similar to our other fall sports, indicated that fall 2020 provided the best opportunity for our football student-athletes to take the field this academic year."

Football student-athletes and staff returned to campus for team activities in late June, with extensive health and safety protocols in place to mitigate the risk of COVID-19. Over the past 13 weeks more than 1800

COVID-19 tests have been administered to members of the football program with only two positive results. All student-athletes, coaches and support staff will continue to be tested multiple times per week and can increase testing to meet additional opponent requirements in order to play games, if necessary.

"Today is a great day for Massachusetts Football," said head football coach Walt Bell. "Everyone associated with our program is excited to play football this fall. We have successfully created one of the safest environments in college football since June and our young men deserve the opportunity to compete in 2020. We are grateful to our campus leadership for supporting academic and competitive opportunities for our student-athletes and staff to do what they love in a safe manner."

Since announcing the cancellation of the fall season on August 11, football student-athletes have continued training on campus and have remained enrolled in coursework full-time, either virtually or in-person, in line with the University of Massachusetts' update to its fall re-

opening plan, announced on August 6.

Student-athletes who choose not to practice or play this fall can opt out of the 2020 season with no impact to their NCAA eligibility, roster status or scholarship aid agreement.

In addition, following consultation with local public health and university officials, UMass Athletics will not host fans for home games at McGuirk Alumni Stadium this fall. Season ticket holders will be contacted by the UMass Ticket Office on an individual basis with more information. The department will announce media rights distribution plans as games are scheduled throughout the fall.

Answer to this week's question: McNamara replaced Ralph Houk who retired following the 1984 season.

• **DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING WE DON'T?** If you have information about a local athlete that you would like to see appear in this column, please email it to sports@dailytimesinc.com.

• Real Estate Transfers •

BURLINGTON

5 Barnum Rd was sold to Scanlon, Shawn S and Scanlon, Jennifer K by Welch, Joan M for \$500,000 on 09/11/20

14 Carol Ave was sold to 14 Carol Avenue LLC by Impemba, Sylvia for \$485,000 on 09/11/20

9 Donna Ln was sold to Flanigan, Ryan and Flanigan, Christina by Scanlon, Shawn S and Scanlon, Jennifer K for \$680,000 on 09/10/20

102 Drake Rd was sold to Alexander, Ashley and Sheridan, Gregory J by Phani K Raj RET and Raj, Phani K for \$800,000 on 09/09/20

3 Heather St was sold to Warner, Bryan R and Warner, Jessica by Cullati, John for \$755,000 on 09/10/20

26 Lantern Ln was sold to Marrama, Amber and Dee, James by Hill, Robert F for \$1,056,000 on 09/10/20

2 Richardson Rd was sold to Charette, Austin by Perry, Eric and Perry, Chelsea for \$555,000 on 09/08/20

19 Sparhawk Dr was sold to Xhuveli, Sokrat and Xhuveli, Zana by Gasper, Joseph M and Gasper, Joyce A for \$725,000 on 09/09/20

37 Westwood St was sold to Monteiro, Catia F by Nguyen, Len T for \$500,000 on 09/09/20

1 Woodhill Rd was sold to Rimal, Manoj and Rimal, Nirja by Bascunan, Juan and Bascunan, Ornella for \$670,000 on 09/11/20

NORTH READING

3 Gifford Way was sold to Murray-Ross, Michelle A by Bullock, Richard W and Morris-Bullock, Mary E for \$1,040,000 on 09/10/20

359 Park St was sold to Ohara, Kevin P and Ohara, Teresa A by Olson, Matthew J for \$433,000 on 09/09/20

2 Winterberry Ln was sold to Fraske-Firschein, Allison and Firschein, Alexander by McGotty, Michael and McGotty, Heather for \$820,000 on 09/10/20

READING

49 Deering St was sold to Alvarado, Iliana by Cabral, Charles and Cabral, Sarah for \$479,000 on 09/11/20

5 Grand St was sold to Overberg, John and Overberg, Zhen by Alvarado, Vanessa and Alvarado, Iliana for \$760,000 on 09/09/20

75 Green St #3 was sold to Dubreuil, Matthew and Sye, Kaylee by Smith, Deborah E for \$350,000 on 09/10/20

52 Sanborn St #7 was sold to Waller, Patrick R and Waller, Maria N by Coulter, Lorinda A for \$557,000 on 09/10/20

605 Summer Ave #3-51 was sold to Absar, Yassine by Kazandjian, Vartan and Kazand-

jian, Garine for \$330,000 on 09/11/20

110 Village St was sold to Falcone, Lindsay G and Pezdek, Jamison by DeLlano, Jordi Bik, Reagan H for \$653,400 on 09/11/20

STONEHAM

60 Lincoln St was sold to Sousa, Mayara A and DeSousa, Jonatas by 60 Lincoln Street LLC for \$640,000 on 09/08/20

68 Main St #15C was sold to Cirurso, Anthony by Johnson, Laura J for \$365,000 on 09/09/20

TEWKSBURY

81 Apache Way #81 was sold to Patel, Niravkumar and Patel, Reena by Rossi, Cathy for \$337,500 on 09/09/20

307 Astle St was sold to Almonte, Juan by Galloway LLC for \$819,000 on 09/09/20

30 Carl Donald Dr was sold to Valente, Laurena and Farah, Richard by Carl Donald Prop Inv LLC for \$749,900 on 09/09/20

8 Henry J Dr was sold to Comeau, John by Restuccia, John and Restuccia, Karen M for \$471,000 on 09/10/20

17 Kingfisher Rd was sold to Hanley, Michael C and Quinn, Samantha C by Carter, Douglas C for \$540,000 on 09/10/20

2 Kneeland Rd was sold to Semenza, Shauna L and Semenza, David by John Paul Properties LLC for \$719,900 on 09/11/20

797 Livingston St was sold to Leung, Calvin and Cordeiro, Molly by Connolly, Dorothy B for \$397,000 on 09/11/20

17 Sullivan Pkwy was sold to Mcinerney, Jeffrey and Quinn, Daniel by Randall, Alicia for \$505,000 on 09/09/20

5 Truman Ave was sold to Goldberg, Micah and Goldberg, Kasey by Vocell, Karen L for \$471,000 on 09/11/20

330 Whipple Rd was sold to Larrick, David C and Larrick, Linda by Ramsay, Kelly S and Ramsay, Kimberley P for \$490,000 on 09/08/20

185 William G Dr was sold to Kazandjian, Vartan A and Kazandjian, Garine by William G Drive NT and Rockwell, Joseph L for \$613,000 on 09/11/20

WAKEFIELD

7 Brandt Cir was sold to Perrone, Michael and Perrone, Emily by Moriarty, Michael W and Moriarty, Danielle M for \$702,000 on 09/09/20

98 Cedar St #10 was sold to Soper, Alex by Zagarri, Andrew P for \$405,000 on 09/08/20

19 Charles St was sold to Johnson, Camela S by Castro, Maria I and Moody, Dallas J for \$570,000 on 09/11/20

13 Drury Ln was sold to Kyi, Jeffrey H and Kwong, Julie Y by Emerson, Michael Cand Emerson, Lauren for \$667,500 on

09/10/20

18 Gould St was sold to Dean, Brandon by Hanson, Kyle and Hanson, Jacquelyn L for \$722,000 on 09/10/20

21 Herbert St #B was sold to Yu, Victor and Boden-Yu, Deanna by Robblee, Timothy Kand Robblee, Michelle M for \$600,000 on 09/08/20

23 Pearl St was sold to Smirnov, Serge and Abbott, Amanda by Scarpello, Jennifer R and Scarpello, David A for \$727,500 on 09/11/20

38 Rosemary Ave was sold to Larosa, David B and Larosa, Nancy F by Lanzillotti, R Anthony and Lanzillotti, Maureen for \$590,000 on 09/11/20

WILMINGTON

16 Fairmeadow Rd was sold to Turri Group Inc by Peters FT 2 and Peters, James L for \$458,500 on 09/09/20

37 Grace Dr was sold to Battaglia, Michael and Schnur, Emma by Landrigan, Robert W for \$600,000 on 09/10/20

6 Grant St was sold to Goodrich, Grey E and Thompson, Michelle J by Chilson, Wesley Joyce, Allison for \$590,724 on 09/08/20

5 High St was sold to Shah, Jay and Shah, Angela by Massachusetts Equity Inv for \$749,900 on 09/09/20

16 Kendall St was sold to Graham, Paul and Graham, Sara by Cohen, Daniel N and Cohen, Kristyn for \$545,000 on 09/09/20

8 King St was sold to Moffatt, Alexander S and Tully, Kristina E by Fallon, Adam P and Fallon, Phuong L for \$600,000 on 09/11/20

436-R Middlesex Ave was sold to Tierney, Joseph K and Tierney, Jennifer A by Travers, Pamela J for \$570,000 on 09/10/20

28 Murray Hill Cir was sold to Maddi, Prithvi and Redreddy, Varsha R by CS Newhouse Builders Inc for \$814,900 on 09/08/20

N/A ws sold to Perrino, John by Alberty Thomas K Est and Aptaker, David for \$415,000 on 09/10/20

7 Presidential Dr was sold to Cohen, Daniel and Cohen, Kristyn by Mullane Construction LLC for \$710,000 on 09/09/20

9 Royal St was sold to Golden RT and Goldberg, Debra A by Claire I Troy RET and Troy, Claire I for \$325,300 on 09/11/20

WINCHESTER

50-52 Charles Rd was sold to ATP Charles LLC by Kreminski, John S and Smith, Deborah L for \$780,000 on 09/10/20

43 Grove St was sold to Huehn, John and Huehn, Holly by Apple Tree T and Murray, Robert W for \$2,199,000 on 09/11/20

9 Holton St was sold to Hurd, Christopher and Eby, Stephanie L by Benincasa, Cather-

ine M for \$860,000 on 09/11/20

130 Pond St was sold to Hinge, Vaibhav and Patil, Tina by Zhang, Xiyan and Zhao, Yan-lifor \$962,000 on 09/08/20

209 Washington St #209 was sold to Decker, Brennan J and Decker, Emily J by Stern, John and Stern, Elisa D for \$1,000,000 on 09/11/20

WOBURN

74 Beach St #2-12 was sold to Beach Street RT and Scalley, Daniel P by Mcdonough, James M for \$225,000 on 09/10/20

25 Beacon St was sold to Riley, Kaitlyn by Smith, Jennifer L for \$530,000 on 09/10/20

Lawson St #A1 was sold to Brady, Robert by Finn, Stephanie for \$10,000 on 09/11/20

42 Leonard St was sold to Terehov, Ivan and Vujicic-Terehov, Ivana by Colannino, Anthony and Colannino, Kara V for \$593,000 on 09/08/20

23 Longwood Ave was sold to Leach, Douglas and Watters, Kelly by Leach, Douglas H and Leach, Janice R for \$410,000 on 09/11/20

126 Montvale Ave was sold to Ho, Thi K and Ho, Nguyen by Peterson, Edward and Peterson, Suzanne for \$685,000 on 09/11/20

286 Montvale Ave was sold to Nagawa, Safina by Montvale Avenue RT and Marotto, John D for \$390,000 on 09/10/20

29 Northwoods Cir #29 was sold to Mcsweeney, Kaitlyn J by Gavli, Sattwik V and Singla, Sumedha for \$440,000 on 09/09/20

25 Porter St was sold to Noboa, Benjamin and Villar, Elizabeth A by Imperioso, Anthony M for \$849,900 on 09/10/20

353 Salem St was sold to Lee, Marc J by Farino, John D and Farino, Patricia A for \$475,000 on 09/11/20

LYNNFIELD

324 Chestnut St was sold to Lemberger, Joan and Lemberger, Thomas W by Colbert, Maureen A and Colbert, Timothy B for \$1,355,000 on 09/10/20

2 Murphy Way was sold to Smith, Evan C and Smith, Rebekah H by Sood, Esha and Vohra, Parag for \$1,412,000 on 09/10/20

21 Phillips Rd was sold to Donovan, Deirdre W and Donovan, Sean P by Oconnell, Joseph T and Oconnell, Mary L for \$650,000 on 09/10/20

12 Pine St was sold to Godfrey, John and Zhang, Li C by Martindale, Michele A and Dolan, Nannette M for \$660,000 on 09/09/20

10 Willowby Way was sold to Bautista, Julius and Bautista, Kristine by Donovan, Sean P and Donovan, Deirdre W for \$760,000 on 09/10/20

Resident suggests McCoy still serve on MBTA Advisory Board

BOS FROM PAGE 1

online only.

The next item was a reminder about the EPA's proposed plan for the Olin Superfund Site comment period extended until Oct. 26. Town Manager Jeff Hull also shared information from a phone call with Textron where they specified intent to take down their unused buildings and hire upwards of 300 people in the next five years.

Another reminder came from Town Clerk Christine Touma-Conway that in-person voting on Nov. 3 will be at the Shriner's Auditorium, but there's also early voting available at the town hall starting Oct. 14.

An update came from the Planning and Conservation Department asking residents to participate in fall clean-up in their neighborhoods. The DPW asked residents to place their bulky items at the curb for Casella or notify them if they couldn't. RMLD also sent in a reminder to the Town Mana-

ger with regard to their Public Power Week from Oct. 4-10 with some virtual events.

The board next considered a request from Michael Barry to use Rotary Park for rehearsal and performance space for two Shakespeare productions with The Misfit Artist Company. While the board voted in favor of the proposal, they asked Hull to remind Barry that everyone who can should wear a mask, that he might have to work around anyone using the park, and that they shouldn't leave any trash behind.

The five board members also voted in favor of automatically extending every license for on premises consumption of food and drink at restaurants per COVID-19 order 50 being extended to 60 days after the state of emergency ends. Their final anticipated vote was for the appointment of 25 additional election workers.

Later, the board voted in favor of a prayer event to be held outside on the town

common on Saturday, Oct. 10 and took no action on the Pizza Days request since the petitioner didn't make it to the meeting.

In announcements, the board celebrated Selectmen Gregory Bendel's wife's pregnancy, the retirement of librarian Linda Pavluk, and the birthday of Ethel Butters. They also referenced the losses of Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Ralph Gants.

The final announcement came from Jonathan Eaton recommending that all safety precautions like social distancing, face masks, and hand sanitizer be used for residents who feel comfortable trick-or-treating on Halloween.

The first public commenter introduced a topic the board addressed after announcements. Ethan Sawyer said that in his opinion, Mike McCoy should continue to serve on the MBTA advisory board even though the Board of Selectmen voted Jomarie O'Mahony as their new designee.

"There's finally going to

be some activity at the North Wilmington train station. He'd be a good asset to that whole process."

At this point, Kevin Cairra doubted McCoy's attendance to that board's meetings, and O'Mahony said she would ask if it's possible for the selectmen to have two designees.

Cairra went on to formally request the board notify the MBTA advisory board that O'Mahony is their new designee while also sending a letter to McCoy thanking him for his time representing the Board of Selectmen.

Eaton initially established that he thought McCoy could still serve on the advisory board; he just wouldn't represent the selectmen. Cairra said that technically the board should make a new appointee and that it would be up to them if they want to reappoint McCoy.

Selectman Bendel supported Cairra's motion, saying he expects that not only would he no longer serve on any committees should he leave the board,

but also that his appointees would expire. Cairra went on to suggest putting term limits on the board's appointees to give future selectmen the chance to make appointments.

The solution the chairman offered was to make a subcommittee to look at the process of forming and structuring committees.

It was implied that discussion about possibly appointing McCoy as a resident to the committees he had wanted to serve on and how to deal with appointments would continue at the next meeting. They unanimously voted to at least thank McCoy for his time representing the Board of Selectmen on the MBTA advisory board, the inhabitant by-law committee, and the rink committee.

Cairra asked the chairman under important dates why

the high school media room would be the location of their next three meetings. Eaton explained the volunteers who would normally join their town hall meetings couldn't come to set up.

Another benefit he said is that the WHS media room could allow a public commenter to share their comment in person.

Cairra countered that the town hall room they were currently in was much bigger. He didn't believe Eaton's claim that Bendel had moved a meeting to the Wildwood School without approval from the rest of the board when he was chair.

After the motion to keep their next meeting on Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. at the town hall failed, Monday's meeting ended with the Salute to Service recognizing WHS graduate James Davey.

LEGAL NOTICES ARCHIVE

All published legal notices are posted to the Massachusetts Public Notices website. To search the archive of previously published legal notices go to:

www.homenewshere.com or
masspublicnotices.org/Search.aspx

Pumpkin Patch at Wilmington United Methodist Church

WILMINGTON — Cooler weather can mean only one thing: time for the WUMC Pumpkin Patch! The Wilmington United Methodist Church will once again

hold its annual pumpkin patch on the church's front lawn, starting Monday, Sept. 21 through Oct. 31. Hours are Monday through Friday, 12 to 7 p.m. and

weekends from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. As always, there will be a large selection and variety of pumpkins.

Proceeds will support the church and its many

mission projects.

Wilmington United Methodist Church, 87 Church Street Wilmington, 978-658-4519

www.wilmingtonumc.org

Middlesex Sheriff's Office warns of imposter scam

BILLERICA — The Middlesex Sheriff's Office is warning the public about ongoing scam calls in which criminals are posing as members of the Middlesex Sheriff's Office (MSO).

Over the past several days, the MSO has received multiple calls from individuals reporting they had been contacted by men

claiming to be deputies. The scammers used the names of real deputies and told citizens they need to turn themselves in or face arrest. In this and similar scams, victims are told they may be able to get out of the arrest by paying a fine using gift cards.

The Middlesex Sheriff's Office has determined several of those who reported

receiving calls have profiles on a website containing profiles of mental health professionals. The MSO has seen a similar trend in prior iterations of this imposter scam.

"We want everyone to be aware of these scams," said Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian. "Whether you are a retiree, laborer or medical professional — no one

is immune from being targeted by these criminals."

Anyone who believes they have been the victim of this, or any, imposter scam is encouraged to contact their local police department. Individuals may also report the matter to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at <https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/Information#crnt&panel1-1>.

Selectmen hear about property near Olin site

COUNSEL FROM PAGE 1

Department of Environmental Protection and then the Wilmington Board of Health to each determine whether the facility can go forward according to the following set of criteria. Mass DEP and the BOH will consider: the location and nature of public drinking supplies nearby; the proximity of wetlands, surface water, and flood plains; the suitability of access roads; the potential for adverse public health and safety affects; the impact on agriculture, wildlife, traffic, and communities; and the existing solid waste facilities located within the municipality; and a few more factors.

Should the DEP agree that the proposal can proceed, the Board of Health would allow a formal public hearing after which they make their own decision. "The town, through the Board of Selectmen, has the authority to intervene as an interested party in that proceeding," Corbo said.

The BOH would submit a final written statement after considering the comments from the hearing.

The first concern the board raised was whether allowing this transfer site has any implication on the Olin site, or how they could prevent another Olin situation in the long run.

Corbo explained the site assignment that is being considered here is only for the activity specified within a certain set of circumstances. Should the applicant or owner want to change the use of the project, like adding transportation by railway, they have to seek approval all over again.

Selectman DePalma then asked the chair if he had invited the applicant or their representation, Rob Peterson, to the meeting tonight. Selectman O'Mahony added that the applicant had addressed some of the criteria in advance, like wetlands and traffic,

and she would have preferred if they were present. Another thing she said she'd like to see from the applicant is whether there are any long-term benefits for the town in allowing this proposal.

Chairman Eaton stood by his decision to invite only Town Counsel and not the applicant. He shared that he'd thought of it more as an opportunity to educate the board with Town Counsel's opinion instead of only what the applicant may have to say in case the board gets to represent the town at the public hearing.

"I want to ensure that

this board is well prepared and well educated on the status, the conditions of the property, and the ramifications," he said. "I'm wary of inviting the applicant in for any development where we're not the forum for adjudication."

The board's next involvement would only be to represent the town at the public hearing for the Board of Health if the DEP gives the go ahead.

One of the last questions the board had was what this proposal is costing the town. To this question, Town Manager Jeff Hull clarified that GeoInsight has already been hired to

review the ENF and will be involved in any part of the process that goes forward.

A few public comments responded to this agenda item later in the night. Ethan Sawyer asked if the town could prohibit trucks driving through the residential area near the property, and Chairman Eaton said he couldn't answer that question.

Attorney Rob Peterson Jr. joined the call on behalf of his client to say that traffic is certainly on their radar, and anyone who has questions is welcome to ask the petitioner by way of his office.



Chamber Corner

Wilmington/Tewksbury Chamber of Commerce
226 Lowell St., Suite B4A 978-657-7211
Wilmington, MA 01887 www.WilmingtonTewksburyChamber.org



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- Myth: Physical therapy is painful**
Fact: Everyone has heard horror stories about PT being painful, but as PTs, our patients should understand we want to decrease their pain as we help them increase their functional abilities.
- Myth: Physical Therapy is expensive**
Fact: Actually, PT is inexpensive when you look at the actual costs. That's why most insurance companies require you to do 6 weeks of PT before authorizing an MRI, because it saves you and them money!

Director, Douglas E. White MSPT, L/ATC, CSCS earned a Master's Degree in Physical Therapy from the University of Miami in 1993 and has experience improving collegiate and professional athletes' performance. He was Sports Medicine Director for USA Skeleton at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, where his athletes won one Silver and two Gold Medals.

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This member profile is provided by the Wilmington/Tewksbury Chamber of Commerce. To have your business highlighted here contact Executive Director Nancy Vallee at 978-657-7211.

LEGAL NOTICE



TOWN OF WILMINGTON
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

PUBLIC MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a Public Meeting will be held in Town Hall, Room 9, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA 01887, on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., in compliance with provisions of MGL Chapter 131, Section 40, and 310 CMR 10.00 on a Request for Determination of Applicability, filed by the Wilmington Housing Authority, 41 Deming Way, Wilmington, MA 01887, owner and applicant. This filing is for reclaiming and repaving of roadway, walkways, and parking areas. This work is within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands and Riverfront Area as designated by the MA Wetlands Protection Act, MGL Chapter 131, Sect. 40 and 310 CMR 10.00. This property is located at Deming Way, Wilmington, MA 01887 and shown on Assessor's Map 30 Parcel 1. A copy of the application is on file at the Department of Planning & Conservation, Room 6, Wilmington Town Hall, and can be requested by emailing Cathy Pepe at cpepe@wilmingtonma.gov between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Donald Pearson, Chair
Conservation Commission
200952 9/30/20

LEGAL NOTICE



TOWN OF WILMINGTON
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held in Town Hall, Room 9, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA 01887, on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 7:10 p.m. in compliance with the provisions of MGL Chapter 131, Section 40, and 310 CMR 10.00 on a Notice of Intent filed by Sayer Usher, 18 Cunningham Street, Wilmington, MA 01887, owner and applicant. The filing is for construction of a 10' x 16' addition and related site work. This work is within 100-foot buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands as designated by the MA Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. Chapter 131, Sect. 40 and 310 CMR 10.00. This property is located at 18 Cunningham Street, Wilmington, MA 01887 and shown on Assessor's Map 69 Parcel 112. A copy of the application is on file at the Department of Planning and Conservation, Room 6, Wilmington Town Hall, and may be requested by emailing Cathy Pepe at cpepe@wilmingtonma.gov between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Donald Pearson, Chair
Conservation Commission
200953 9/30/20



LEGAL NOTICE



TOWN OF WILMINGTON
BOARD OF APPEALS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held at the Town Hall, 121 Glen Road, on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. on the following applications:

Case 19-20
Gibraltar Pools and Spas
15 Winston Avenue
Map 8, Parcel 91A
To acquire a variance for a pool
200925 9/23,30/20

LEGAL NOTICE



COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND
FAMILY COURT

Middlesex Probate
and Family Court
208 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA 02141
(617) 768-5800

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Docket No. MI20P4102EA

Estate of:
Jeanne F. Savio
Date of Death: 05/20/2020

To all interested persons:

A Petition for Formal Probate of Will has been filed by Diane M. Christopher of Tewksbury MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Diane M. Christopher of Tewksbury MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/14/2020.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Maureen H. Monks, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 16, 2020

Tara E. DeCristofaro,
Register of Probate
200955 9/30/20



Kelly

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WP0253

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DRIVER SEAT, BACK-UP CAMERA
VIN: 1N4AA6AP4HC433496
WP0231

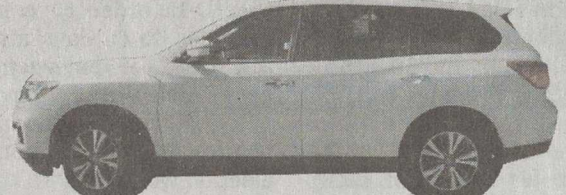
\$22,488



2017 Nissan Pathfinder SL 4x4

LEATHER SEATS, THIRD ROW SEAT, POWER LIFTGATE.
VIN: 5N1DR2MM4HC684458
WP0212

\$25,988



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2017 NISSAN SENTRA S SUPER BLACK 20K MILES. WP0255	\$13,538	2017 NISSAN ROGUE SV AWD MIDNIGHT EDITION PALATIAL RUBY 37K MILES. WP0214	\$18,188	2017 INFINITI QX30 PREMIUM AWD. 35K MILES. WWP0081	\$20,775	2019 NISSAN MAXIMA SV SUPER BLACK 10K MILES. WWP0024	\$24,588
2017 NISSAN SENTRA SV GUN METALLIC ONLY 13,804 MILES! WP0300	\$14,538	2017 NISSAN ALTIMA SL PEARL WHITE 17K MILES. WP0186	\$17,894	2017 NISSAN MAXIMA SV BRILLIANT SILVER 30,490 MILES. WP0235A	\$21,988	2019 NISSAN ALTIMA SL AWD STORM BLUE 11K MILES. WP0236	\$23,992
2016 NISSAN ALTIMA SV GUN METALLIC 44,012 MILES. WP0245A	\$15,399	WE BUY CARS! ALL MAKES & MODELS!					
2017 NISSAN ROGUE S AWD BRILLIANT SILVER 40K MILES. WP0197	\$15,785						
2015 SUBURU XV CROSSTREK PREMIUM 41K MILES. W200821A	\$16,688						
2017 NISSAN ROGUE SPORT S AWD, BRILLIANT SILVER 33K MILES. WP0256	\$15,985	2017 NISSAN SENTRA SR TURBO, ONLY 14K MILES! WP0277	\$18,998	2017 NISSAN ROGUE SL AWD PEARL WHITE 15K MILES. WP0228	\$22,708	2019 NISSAN ROGUE PLATINUM MAGNETIC BLACK 14K MILES. WP0169	\$26,898
2017 NISSAN LEAF SL COULIS RED 15K MILES. WP0226	\$16,485	2019 NISSAN KICKS SR CAYENNE RED ONLY 2K MILES! WP0237	\$19,488	2017 NISSAN MURANO SV AWD, PEARL WHITE 29K MILES. WP0227	\$23,488	2019 NISSAN PATHFINDER PLATINUM, BRILLIANT SILVER ONLY 4K MILES! WP0184	\$35,544
2017 NISSAN SENTRA SL SCARLETT EMBER ONLY 19,174 MILES! WP0281	\$16,998	2017 NISSAN MURANO S AWD, BRILLIANT SILVER 59K MILES. WP1459A	\$20,448	2020 NISSAN ROGUE SV AWD, MAGNETIC BLACK, 18K MILES. WP0251	\$23,885	2019 NISSAN TITAN CREW CAB PLATINUM RESERVE 10K MILES. WWP0098	\$45,955
2017 NISSAN ROGUE SPORT SV AWD, 27K MILES. WP0250	\$17,238	2019 NISSAN ALTIMA SV STORM BLUE ONLY 9,592 MILES! WP0269SL	\$20,538	2017 NISSAN PATHFINDER SV 4x4, MAGNETIC BLACK 31K MILES. WP0180	\$23,882	2019 NISSAN TITAN CREW CAB 4X4 PRO-4X PEARL WHITE 10K MILES WP0240	\$44,988

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2017 Kia Sportage EX Prem. AWD 13299A, Auto., Hyper Red, 58K miles	\$18,798
2017 Kia Sportage LX AWD K2985, Auto., Mineral Silver, 25K miles	\$18,998
2017 Kia Sorento LX 4 Cyl. AWD 13373A, 5 Pass., Auto., Black, 23K miles	\$18,998
2018 Kia Sportage LX AWD 13506A, Auto., Hyper Red, 27K miles	\$19,798
2017 Kia Sorento LX Conv. Pkg. K2988, Auto., 4 Cyl., AWD, 5 Pass., Silver, 27K mi.	\$19,998
2018 Kia Sportage LX AWD K2966, Auto., Hyper Red, 23K miles	\$19,998
2018 Kia Sportage LX AWD 13444A, Auto., Pacific Blue, 23K miles	\$19,998
2017 Kia Sorento LX 4 Cyl. AWD 13416A, 5-Passenger, Auto., Silver, 21K miles	\$19,998
2018 Kia Optima EX Premium 13424A, Auto., Snow White Pearl, 24K miles	\$20,998
2018 Kia Sportage LX AWD 13460A, Auto., Clear White, 16K miles	\$20,998
2017 Kia Sorento LX 4 Cyl. AWD K2984, 5-Passenger, Remington Red, 26K miles	\$20,998
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K2933, Auto., 3rd Row, Sangria, 4K miles!

2020 Kia Sorento LX V6 AWD **\$26,998**

K2931, Auto., 3rd Row, Black, 2K miles!

2020 Kia Sorento LX V6 AWD **\$26,998**

K2534, Auto., Everlasting Silver, 8K miles

2020 Kia Sorento LX V6 AWD **\$26,998**

K2932, Auto., Ebony Black, 2K miles

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The Wilmington High School Field Hockey team will open its season this week under the leadership of tri-captains, from left, Annabelle Kane, Chase Andersen and Kiara Nadeau. (photo by JoeBrownphotos.com)

Senior captain thrives on defense

Kane keeping strong family tradition going

By JAMIE POTE
Sports Editor

jamiepote@hotmail.com
WILMINGTON - Back in 2013, Annabelle Kane watched her older sister Bethany, who was a member of the Wilmington High School Field Hockey team. Like all kids that age, she was in awe of 'her star' on the field, who helped the Wildcats win ten games and reach the state tournament.

Back then Bethany wore the No. 17. "I always remember watching her take the ball up the right side of the field," Annabelle noted while also stating that she has an older brother Nolan, who is attending Stonehill College and also played golf and ran track at WHS.

Bethany since went to Stonehill College and graduated and is now living in Washington D.C. and is currently training to become a Capital Police Officer with her graduation ceremony scheduled for this Saturday. That happens to be the same day this No. 17 will line-up as a defender and tri-captain of the 2020 WHS Field Hockey team.

"I only play field hockey," said Annabelle. "My sister played it, plus I tried literally every sport and field hockey is the one that stuck."

Today Annabelle will begin her third year with the varsity team. A solid defensive player, who also enjoyed scoring a goal on her birthday in a win over Woburn last year, Kane heads up a team that brings back 15 players from last year's 8-9-1 record.

"I think we're all looking good and we all did our fair share of pre-season workouts," she said. "We did the day camp, which was good because we got a lot of stick skills, training and cardio stuff. I would go down the field and shoot and also go running."

She did that with anticipation of having a senior season. That was confirmed several weeks ago, but there's stipulations and rule changes. Instead

of having ten players on the field and then the goalie as the eleventh, this year it'll be six players and a goalie. There won't be any offensive corners this year, but you'll see more free hits, more substituting and a lot more running from the players on the field.

"We just have to talk a lot. We have to open for the big passes because there will be a lot more room on the field since it's 7-on-7s. We just have to make the best of it. It's going to be pretty hard and it'll be a big change with just six girls on the field, but we're going to have substitute alot more. We just have to wait and see."

With the change to 7-on-7, head coach Leanne Ebert hinted that as of Monday her formation would include most likely three forwards and either one midfielder and two backs or two midfielders and one back.

"Last year I played the center-midfield spot, but that's basically eliminated now," she said, knowing she will be one of the defenders. "It just means a lot more running and switching back-and-forth with the midfielders."

Having that playing experience over the last two years should pay dividends for Kane and the rest of the Wildcats.

"Annabelle has played midfield or defense for us. This is her third year on varsity so that veteran experience is going to help carry and lead the team so that's going to be huge," said Ebert.

While Annabelle's sister and parents will miss her first game on Saturday, she said that she's hoping at some point this season Bethany can make it to a game and watch No. 17 run around the field like she used to do.

"It was definitely an interesting dynamic (with my siblings growing up)," she said, while sharing that she would like to go to college to become a nurse. "Bethany is more of the responsible one, Nolan was the fun brother and then there's me and I'm kind of like the caretaker perse. But I remember always going and watching all of their sports and stuff. We're all very close."

"Bethany gives me pointers, especially when she used to come to games. Hopefully she can make one this year."

If she does, she'll see No. 17, who can play a little bit.

Touchdown Club offering masks

The Wilmington Touchdown Club is pleased to announce that due to numerous requests by the community, we are once again offering Wildcat masks for sale. Masks can be ordered using the following link:

<https://championschoice.tuosystems.com/stores/whsfb20->

This link will direct you to our online apparel store where we have many items for sale. Please note that only one style of mask is available this time in youth and adult sizes. All monies raised will benefit the WHS Football Program. The deadline to order is October 15, 2020.

WHS Field Hockey Preview

Fifteen returners gearing up to stick past Middlesex League opponents

By JAMIE POTE
Sports Editor

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WILMINGTON - Despite having a roster filled with sophomores and juniors last year, the Wilmington High School Field Hockey team had a successful season, falling just one point shy of qualifying for the Division 2 North sectional tournament for what would have been the 11th straight season.

The Wildcats lost just three players from last year's 8-9-1 club and return 15 with varsity experience. Those 15 players include a handful of skilled players who can find the back of the net at will, and who can also defend at the other end of the field.

Having that experience and those skills should certainly come in handy this season under the new rules which includes 7-on-7 (instead of 11-vs-11) and no offensive corners. The extra space on the field should open up more offense, but also means a lot more running, therefore, team's with speed and depth should benefit.

"I think they are ready to go," said head coach Leanne Ebert. "Yes things have changed but we have been practicing the 7-on-7s. They have been conditioning on their own clearly as just in the past week that we have been together you can see that they are ready to go. They know it's a different and unique year, but they are

willing to do anything."

With the 7-on-7's, Ebert was asked about her potential formation. It seems in the early goings of pre-season other teams are varying. Tewksbury for instance was going to have one forward, three midfielders and two defenders. On Monday, Ebert said as of now her plan is either 3-2-1 or a 3-1-2, meaning three forwards in either case.

"It's going to depend on who is on the field at that moment. It's going to be a lot more running and we're going to be switching out a lot more. Certainly more kids will be playing this year because of the new rules. It's going to look and feel different and we have to be ready for that," she said.

Among the senior returners on this year's team includes the tri-captains Chase Andersen, Annabelle Kane and Kiara Nadeau.

"The three of them just click and anything you ask for they return right in a second," said Ebert. "They are all so responsible, they are always ready to go and ready to play. The rest of the team all seem to respond well to all three of them, which is nice. There's a lot of responsibility and a lot put on a captain. It's not just a name that you carry. There's a lot that goes into it and I think the three of them in this bizarre season, have shown leadership through

and through.

"Chase is back for her third season with the varsity and we're excited to have that veteran leadership with us this year. Kiara mostly be playing a forward. She just has that knack of pulling everyone together. She's that middle link not in terms of on the field, but in terms of the crew, and pulling everyone together."

Andersen as well as fellow senior returners Ida Bishop and Zoe DeRose will be looking to score their share of goals, while the other senior returners include Anja Jensen, Ashley MacGilvary and goalie Johanna Robinson.

The returning juniors are led by Celia Kulis, a talented and skillful player, as well as Jenna Danieli, Allison Foley, Sonny Rebeiro, Kaitlyn St. Jean, Rita Roche and Marisa Bryan.

As of press time, Ebert said that besides the 15 returning players, the rest of the varsity team was not selected.

All of the returning and eventual new players were able to get together for some informal workouts once the restrictions were lifted, and also participated in a day camp held at Austin Prep. There, the members of the team made quite the impression.

"A college coach in Pennsylvania, who was there at the camp, sent us a letter afterwards saying that he's been coaching

and working with all kinds of different kids at all kinds of levels and ages for many years, and he has never worked with a group that was as dedicated with sportsmanship and teamwork than our girls," said Ebert. "He said not just with each other, but they would celebrate other teams even more and support them. He said that we have such a special group of girls, and he wanted to share this because he said that we should be proud of the girls, our program and our town."

"I was so incredibly proud to receive this letter and to share it with the girls and our school administrators. I couldn't have been more proud of them so if nothing else happens this season, we have that. He said that he hopes to be able to follow them through the season because no matter what, he believes they will be successful."

Wilmington will open the season on Saturday afternoon (2 pm) against Burlington.

"We are all so excited about having a season. We weren't sure if it was happening so we couldn't be more excited to be here. We talk to them all of the time about being safe and being smart, but are absolutely looking to put on the field what they shown and in the name that they have put forth of themselves over the off-season," said Ebert.

WHS Boys Soccer Captain

Athletic McGrath heading in the right direction

By JAMIE POTE
Sports Editor

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WILMINGTON - Athletically speaking, Aidan McGrath is pretty impressive.

Take away the lost spring track season and counting the upcoming winter and spring track seasons, he will leave Wilmington High School with 11 varsity letters coming in four sports, soccer and outdoor track (4 years), indoor track (2 years) and basketball (1 year).

In outdoor track, he ranks fifth all-time in program history (modern era) in the 400-meters and in soccer, he was the team's lone league all-star last year, coming on a team that won just one game.

McGrath possesses great

speed and athleticism and has a strong motor and knowledge of his sports. Now this senior soccer season, he's added 'captain' to his resume, and certainly that will not be an easy task considering the team's record from last year, and with all of the new rule changes for this upcoming season.

But if you ask him, he has taken everything in stride - perhaps a big reason why he's been elected as one of the team's three captains.

"Overall, I'm just going into the season with a positive outlook. I know some of the rules are not a huge fan of, but we have a season which is all I can really ask for," he said.

When the summer arrived and the state lifted

MCGRATH B3W



Wilmington High senior tri-captain Annabelle Kane, shown here during a game held last year, is excited to get this season underway. (photo by JoeBrownphotos.com).

WHS Girls Soccer Preview

Wildcats have a heavy line-up of veterans

By JAMIE POTE
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WILMINGTON - Under normal circumstances, this could possibly have been a banner season for the Wilmington High School Girls Soccer team.

Coming off a 13-win campaign, including a victory in the post-season, and returning 17 players with varsity experience, the Wildcats certainly would have been among the pre-season favorites in Division 2 North.

However as we all know these are not normal circumstances. In the fall athletic world, there will not be any divisional rankings or state tournament play. The season got pushed back a few weeks and instead of an 18-game schedule, there will be ten games, only against league opponents, and in this case the Middlesex League Freedom Division.

On top of that there's a large number of on the field changes - every player and coach must wear a mask, there's no more throw-ins, headers or body contact, among many other new rules. Yet despite all of that, head coach Sue Hendee is treating this like any normal season because after all, she like everyone else, has been chomping at the bit just to have any sort of one.

"It's honestly not as different as everyone has anticipated it being," she said. "I think you are still going to see a lot of really good soccer. It's just constantly reminding the girls that they need to be distanced. Honestly, it's very unnatural, even for adults. It's very unnatural not to hug somebody that you haven't seen in a long time or you get introduced to someone and you try to shake their hand and you can't do that. It's an odd thing and it takes some getting used too, but the girls are doing a good job with it."

Hendee was asked about her thoughts on the changes and how it'll play a role with this year's team, which opens Saturday at home against Burlington.

"The restarts I don't see that as an issue at all - it's just something they have to get used too. That won't change the game entirely. The reason why those were put in were to take a mask break. When the ball goes out of



Among the 17 returners for the WHS Girls Soccer team this season includes defender Kaitlyn Maguire (above) and Madison Mulas (below) both, shown handling the ball during a game held last year. (photos by Jim Vaiknoras).

bounds on the sidelines, you have to wait for the whistle and the referee will say 'masks on'. So if the girls want to take those couple of seconds to take the mask down and then put it back up to play, that's an opportunity for them to do that. It's hard to move around with the masks on.

"I don't have a good interpretation of what that's going to look like until we start playing games and I also feel that each referee is going to call it different. I said to the girls just play. If the refs tell you to stop play, you just say 'OK', and now you know and you don't do it again.

"The choice was to play with these rules or don't play. It's not as different as I thought it would be."

Wilmington lost six players off last year's team including defender Aly Colantuoni, who was a league, Lowell Sun and Eastern Mass All-Star. There's six new players this year, including three freshmen who will all get a taste of varsity play which will be led by the 17 returners.

"I think we are actually quite solid," said Hendee. "We have 17 returning players this year and we also have some good, younger players."

Among the 17 returners includes six seniors, eight juniors and three sophomores. The senior group includes midfielders



Amber Flynn and Jenna Sweeney, defenders Ashlyn Buckley, Ava Elliott and Samantha Papastathis, and finally goalie Tori Gemellaro.

The junior class is very strong with forwards Kali Almeida, Alyssa Granara and Olivia Spizuoco, midfielders Amanda Broussard and Jenna Moore, and defenders Audrey Curdo, Kaitlyn Maguire and Madison Mulas.

The sophomore return-

ers include forward Ella Wingate, midfielder Jessica Collins and defender Colleen Baldi - all three who had older sister(s) previously in the program.

The newcomers include juniors Sofia Barletta and Quinn Proulx, sophomore Cameron Foresyth and freshmen Emily Grace, Molly MacDonald and Ashley Mercier, who will serve as the back-up goalie.

Overall Hendee likes

what she sees within this talented roster.

"Amber (Flynn) was very solid for us last year. Our midfield was strong last year with Amber, Amanda (Broussard) and Jenna (Sweeney) and they are all back this year. They are all solid players who are just really fit and always ready to play.

"Our defense is essentially the same with the exception of losing Aly, but Kaitlyn Maguire was basically Aly on the other

side and we also have Maddie Mulas who stepped in and she was making those attacking runs too (for us out of the back) and now she's a year older and a year stronger.

"I'm excited for this year. I feel that we definitely have a strong eleven players and even from there we have a lot of kids who got playing experience last year."

Flynn possesses strong skills as a veteran midfielder

By JAMIE POTE
Sports Editor

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WILMINGTON - Over the years - many really - the Wilmington High School Girls' Soccer team has been extremely successful. There's many reasons for that and probably the biggest one is having talented players, especially in the midfield.

This year's team returns three of them with Amber Flynn, Jenna Sweeney and Amanda Broussard, who were instrumental in last year's 13-win season, including reaching the second round of the state tournament.

Anchored by Flynn, who really emerged to the forefront last year with her incredible skills in all facets of the game, her toughness and her durability, head coach Sue Hendee knows that the middle of the field is the team's best strength once again.

"What's not to like about Amber? She is just a nice

kid, she's a hard worker, she does what you tell to do, she's smart and she's solid," said Hendee. "I really don't think there is a skill that she's lacking in. Last year we all really saw the impact that she can have on the field. And she did it so quietly. She does her job without a lot of flash and flare and is extremely effective.

"She is tough, she's smart and she has exceptional soccer IQ. She's just a really, really smart player."

Flynn said that it took a little while before the three of them got used to playing with one another. All three of them possess different skills, but all three of them also never come off the field. Once they got comfortable with each other, the entire team started to play much better because of the trio's transition abilities.

"It was hard at first but we all have gotten better

FLYNN B4W



Wilmington High School senior captain Amber Flynn has been a mainstay as a midfielder for the Wildcats over the last few years. (photo by Jim Vaiknoras).

Athletic McGrath heading in the right direction

FROM B1W

some of its restrictions for team sports, McGrath said that members of the team took advantage of that.

"We just continued to have our (informal) practices within the guidelines," he said. "We just kept preparing as if we were going to have a season, that way if we had the season, which now we are, we're already prepared so we put ourselves into a summer league. I think there were six schools, Shawsheen Tech, North Reading and a few other teams. We played between six and eight games I think."

He went on to say that in the beginning of the summer league, things were old school like with throw-ins and corner kicks, but towards the second half of it, things changed and the team adapted to the rules which will be enforced starting with Saturday's opener against Burlington.

"At first the league didn't have us wear the masks and then they tightened up the rules as the season went on so towards the end of it, the new rules were implemented. Everything worked out fine."

"I think the biggest adjustment (for the high school team this fall season) is definitely the no-contact. Now you can't just body somebody out of the way. That was the toughest adjustment but overall the flow of the game was pretty similar. It wasn't like it was completely altered and we had to relearn all new rules — it was more so of an on-the-fly adjustment."

For McGrath, he's really not a big contact player. He relies on his speed and skills to move the ball to his teammates or hopefully to find the back of the net.

"Aidan is a good all-around player. He has good skills, he has a good engine and he can play for a long time. He can play both the striker spot and a



Wilmington High School senior captain Aiden McGrath (both photos) is back for his fourth season with the Wildcats and will be looking to lead the team on and off the field. (photos by JoeBrownphotos.com).



midfielder's spot — basically he can play anywhere on the field," said head coach Steve Scanlon. "He's a knowledgeable soccer player. He gets the game so I think all of those things makes him a dangerous player. He was

a league all-star last year and our only one. He has good speed, good skills, he's out together pretty good and he has a good head for the game."

"We're going to try to have him play more north-south this year than

he was in previous years. With the extra offensive opportunities you're going to get running through the 18' yard box, so maybe you'll be able to get more shots off."

In order to score more goals and ultimately win

more games, the Wildcats will have to execute in all facets of the game including offensively, in transition with the midfielders, back on the defense line and of course between the posts with goalie Justin Healey.

Last year the team couldn't put all of those ingredients together consistently enough. McGrath thinks that can happen this time around.

"I have a lot of hopes being a captain. Obviously I'm inclined to have more hopes, but I'm definitely ready to build off last year's season. The preparations that we made coming into this season, I think puts us in a better position (than we were last year)," he said. "Last year was just a struggle."

"There were some games like the opener against Belmont where we hung with them and they were one of the best teams in the league, but then there were other times we struggled. I just don't think we had an identity last year. It was tough."

"I think we're going to change up the formation a little bit (this year), which I think might play a role (into having more success). Plus we only lost six seniors, so most of our top guys are returning. We're going to try a couple of new things formation wise, put players in different spots and see what works."

While the team will have 14 returners with varsity experience, there's also seven newcomers who could also make a splash. One of those even includes sophomore Dillon McGrath, the younger and only sibling of Aidan.

"It's his first year on the varsity team. It's great especially now with the new rules with one spectator per player so now both of my parents get to go every game."

"Besides that, it's just great playing with him, even in the summer league. I know he has the potential to be an impactful player. There's definitely a good outlook for him and I'm hoping he succeeds."

Just like his older brother has.

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The Wilmington High School Boys Soccer team will be led by its three captains, from left, Aiden McGrath, Justin Healey and Alex Fitzler. (courtesy photo/Coach Colin Foley).

WHS Boys Soccer Preview

Despite drastic rule changes, Wildcats have aspirations of more victories

By JAMIE POTE
Sports Editor

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WILMINGTON - No doubt last year was a tough year for the Wilmington High School Boys Soccer team.

And on the outside surface, you would think this season could be tough again, with the delayed and shorter season, as well as the new rule changes.

However that being said, there's a tremendous amount of optimism surrounding the Wildcats who will be looking to improve upon it's 1-15-2 record of a year ago.

Wilmington brings back 13 players from last year's team, including a healthy Alex Fitzler, who is a strong defender, while adding two outstanding athletes in Owen Surrette and Stephen Smolinsky, and have added depth with six players pulled up from the JV team.

Add all of that into a roster that already has a league all-star in Aiden McGrath and a strong veteran goalie, and certainly the hopes of winning more games than losing is certainly an attainable goal. But like every other soccer team in Massachusetts, with all of the new rule changes, you really have no idea what to expect until games officially start.

"It's uncharted waters," said head coach Steve Scanlon. "We really don't know what to expect. The rule changes are drastic in soccer. The things that have been taken away and what you are asking the kids to be able to do out there is difficult. We're going to learn as we go along."

"You are going to hope for good officiating. You hope to get guys who are going to be willing to work with the kids to get over some stuff, like what's too rough so it's going to be a learning process for everybody."

Scanlon - who last year captured his 200th win as the Wilmington head coach dating back to 2000 and has 329 career wins, which included previous stops at Methuen and Westford Academy - was asked how much these new rules have changed his daily practices and

will change game strategies.

"Obviously you don't have to bother defending corner kicks. A lot of those kinds of things, we try to do other things off of are now taken away. Now, the direct kick taken from different places on the field is now a weapon for you. We'll have some different kids trying that out to see if we can score some goals that way."

"Strategy wise, as defenders you have to become better positioned defenders because you're not going to be able to make up for being out of position and being physical and coming up to the kid and knocking him off the ball. That's not going to happen so I think the positional stuff is going to be very important. I don't think it'll have as big of an affect on the attack because you still have to move the ball."

"So much of the game of predicated on winning the 50-50 balls so when you can't compete for a ball in the air, it's a different thing. It really is going to be different."

With no corner kicks, throw-ins or body contact of any kind - as well as every player and coach having to wear a mask at all times besides mask breaks - but the addition of direct kicks (instead of corners and throw-ins), there should be a lot more offense in games this season. The Wildcats really struggled to score last year.

"I think you'll see more offense this year (generally speaking) because I don't think you'll be able to do what you are used to be doing defensively," said Scanlon. "Also, there's the no walls on free kicks and you have some kids in this league who can really strike the ball, so I do think there will be an uptick in offense."

Wilmington lost nine players from last year's team - seven who graduated and two who didn't return. That leaves 13 holdovers, including tri-captains Fitzler, McGrath and goalie Justin Healey. Fitzler, who really emerged as an impressive defender as a sophomore, was out all last season due to a knee injury.

McGrath is a speedy and skillful midfielder who was a league all-star last year, and Healey is excellent between the posts, but certainly a victim of some tough luck play in front of him.

The other ten returners include seniors, striker Chris Bernazani, midfielders DJ Ricupero and Chris Wong and defenders Ryan Forcina, Patrick O'Mahony, Patrick Xavier and Jason Berube, as well as three juniors, back-up goalie Liam Dwyer and midfielders Anay Gandhi and Christian O'Neil.

The team got a big boost with the additions of Owen Surrette, a former varsity soccer player who ran cross-country last year, and Stephen Smolinsky, who is a multi-sport athlete including being one of the football captains this upcoming season.

The other six members of the team include Ryan Wilson, Alexander Paquet, Joseph Cornish, Evan Shackelford, Dillon McGrath and Willie Stuart.

"Up front, Chris Bernazani is a good attacker and having Owen Surrette back after a year with the cross-country team is great," said Scanlon. "He can help at both a striker and as a midfielder. We know he has a great engine and he's a player who will be counting on."

"We have a veteran defense with (Patrick) O'Mahony, (Alex) Fitzler is back after his injury, Jason Berube and Patrick Xavier. Minus Alex who was hurt, the rest of them all started last year. We have a strong goalie in Healey, so that should be beneficial."

"I like this kid who is the football captain, Smolinsky. He's a good athlete and I think he could potentially give us a missing ingredient in the middle of the field. He's pretty tough to the ball. Apparently he still played regularly with these guys in the spring and he don't look all that far out of beat. This is a unique situation for him."

The season will open on Saturday afternoon with a short trip to Burlington for a 3 pm start. This year's schedule has ten

games which includes home-and-home series with the five other Middlesex League Freedom Division opponents, Burlington, Wakefield, Stoneham, Watertown and Melrose.

With that one win last year, Scanlon hopes and firmly believes that the team can notch more than that this fall.

"This year we have ten games, they are all in our division so you're not playing any crossover games," he said. "It was a little deceptive record wise last year. We were in a lot of games but we had a lot of trouble finishing and we would give up that key goal. Not having to play the teams from the Liberty Division and not being overwhelmed with their speed (is a big plus)."

"The way our schedule was set up, we would see the three biggest schools right away, so this schedule atleast you are seeing a team this Saturday that has the same speed as us. We are hoping for better. They claim that we are playing for a league title, but I don't understand how you are going to be able to do that when you are not allowed to make up games. How are you going to do that? You play ten games and I play eight, so how do you crown a champion? That's not fair."

In either case, league title on the line or new modifications to follow, Scanlon said the team is thrilled just to be back on the fields together.

"I think the kids are excited to be out doing something and they are happy to be playing," he said. "That has to be good enough for them. The way things are (in the country), things are a mess. I don't like the rule changes personally, but we're all trying to give our student-athletes something positive to do, to keep their heads off of all of this stuff and keep them safe."

"You hate to see seniors potentially lose a season - especially these guys who some have been with me all four years. You want to see at least see them finish up somehow, and not like (this past) spring (season) when it was just pull the plug."

Fall Baseball team suffers tough loss to Methuen

By: JOSH CAREDEO
Sports Correspondent

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METHUEN -- After a stellar blowout 18-3 victory in the first game of the short season against Greater Lowell, the second game for Wilmington's Fall Ball Baseball team was much closer, as they would suffer their first loss of the season at the hands of Methuen by a score of 5-4 played on Sunday morning.

The game started out strong for Wilmington pitching, with Joe Dynan throwing two scoreless innings, giving up one walk while striking out five Methuen batters.

"[Joey's] a solid pitcher; throws hard, locates well, works well with our catchers," said coach Marc Gallucci.

Methuen would score the first run of the game in the bottom of third on an RBI single, making the score 1-0.

Wilmington would rally back to score two runs of their own in the bottom of the fifth.

Matt Vinal and Brian Curdo both collected RBIs on base hits in that inning, scoring Garrett Moretto and Joey Dynan, giving Wilmington a 2-1 lead.

Jimmy McCarron, Jack Toomey, and Jacob Roque all pitched scoreless innings in relief after Dynan.

Burke Zimmer also pitched a scoreless inning of relief out of the bullpen before running into some trouble in the bottom of the eighth.

Methuen's bats caught fire, as would score four runs in the bottom of the eighth, making the score 5-2.

Coach Gallucci said he wanted to see what this team was made of after that inning.

"I really appreciate the kids not quitting after giving up a lead," he said. "Going down few runs in the top of the ninth, they showed a little fight in them towards the end which was great."

That little fight accounted for two runs in the top

of the ninth.

Drew Gallucci and Joe Cornish would score on hits by Nico Piazza and Derek Gallucci, cutting Methuen's lead to 5-4.

They could not get the tying run across, as Wilmington would lose their first game of the season by that same score.

"It was an overall good team effort; the kids love the game, they played hard," said Gallucci.

Coach Gallucci says he can take away a lot from these first two games, as the season is already winding down with four games to go.

"The kids have been playing pretty well, it took a while to get the bats going the first game," said Gallucci. "They are putting good swings on the ball, not all of them are falling in, but they are getting the bats going."

With this fall season being a pre-cursor to the upcoming spring season next year, Gallucci believes Wilmington's High School baseball team is in good hands for the future.

"I think we are going to be pretty solid from top to bottom," Gallucci said. "I'm impressed by some kids that I didn't know and I'm happy with the kids that I already knew and how they're playing."

"It was a fun game to coach whether we won or lost, and I'm excited to move forward with these guys."

Next up: Wilmington will go on the road once again to take on Billerica, with first pitch scheduled for 10 a.m.

Wilmington's roster includes Joe Cornish, Brian Curdo, Peter DiAdamo, Joey Dynan, Derek Gallucci, Drew Gallucci, Jimmy McCarron, Garrett Moretto, Nate Packer, Nico Piazza, DJ Ricupero, Jacob Roque, Jack Toomey, Matt Vinal, and Burke Zimmer.

Marc Gallucci's assistant coaches are Lou Piazza, Shawn Roque, and Pat Toomey.

Pre-K soccer players enjoying the time on the field

Week 3 - In-Town
Soccer Highlights
Boys Pre-K

The orange team rolled into Week 2 with some new teammates, and after introductions, all of the players were great listeners and hard workers. The practice drills focused on making short kicks using the inside and outside edges of our feet, and controlling the ball.

The players also dribbled the ball through and around pairs of cones that were called "gates." The players talked about passing to teammates, and immediately began to think about when to make passes, and get ready to receive passes.

This game was the best of the young season for Ronan Barker-Purcell, Nicholas Carney, Sam Desmond, Dillon DiPersio, Jack Lapsley, Xavier Lopes, Henry Magary, Jackson Mahoney, and Theo Tofuri.

Girls First Grade

Proving they were also World Cup Competitors Eleanor Bergeron and Sydney Alsup scored for the Chicago Red Stars in this hard fought game. Elle McShane and Alexis Spence added the offensive punch and Delia DiCenso and Lily Falk held up the defense. It was an outstanding team effort.

Girls Second Grade

The crowd was kept on the edge of their seats this week as the Seattle Reign,

led by the offensive skills of Alexa DiGiovanni, Gianna Menzone and Kyla Pereira resulted in scoring opportunities by Colette Strykowski and Lilah Gearwar.

The defense was not to be left out of this one either as Sayde Munsie, Paityn Loughran, Gisella DiGiovanni and Mila Puca kept the ball out of their zone for much of the game.

Grade 4 Boys Travel

The crowd was kept on the edge of their seats this weekend as the Wilmington Wildcats travelled to Medford for an expected thriller between the Grade 4 teams. Wilmington was led by the fantastic ball skills of Teddy Vorreth, Patrick Jamieson and Cooper Hunt, resulting in multiple scoring opportunities for Lucas Pereira, Davio DiCenso and Brayden Long. Zachary Maiella showed the crowd his cannon for a leg with a direct kick goal to open the second half.

The defense was not to be left out of this one either as Stephen Zella, Nate Ricciarelli, Ryan MacPherson and Sean Marazi kept the ball out of their zone for much of the game. Wilmington walked away with a 7-2 victory and owes a lot of the credit to solid goalkeeping from Ryan MacPherson, Stephen Zella and Lucas Pereira.

Amber Flynn possesses strong skills as a veteran midfielder

FROM B2W

playing together for that whole season. We also had summer last year so I think we got a lot better playing with each other. It should be better," she said.

Flynn admits full knowing this year's season is certainly going to be extremely difficult with the new rules. She and her teammates can no longer use contact on the field - everything will be played on the ground.

"At first I was nervous (with the changes) but now that we are playing, it doesn't seem that differ-

ent. It's still soccer," she said. "The (changes are) not that different. I think it's going to be a little weird at first because it's such a habit to play contact, but I don't think it'll be that different. We'll get used to it. (At practice) we are trying to make it less physical and more of a team game - more passing and footskills and stuff like that."

A three-sport athlete who also runs and throws the shot put in both indoor and outdoor track, Flynn comes from an athletic family. Her father Eric

was a three-sport athlete at WHS (Class of 1992) and was called by former WHS Boys Hoop coach Jim McCune as one of the top five athletes he had ever coached during his days here.

Eric went on to play football at RPI, which happens to be one of the school's Amber is looking at as she wants to study Bio-Medical Engineering.

The other athlete in the family is Amber's younger sister, Kayla, who is a sophomore on the cross-country team.

"We get along half of the

time. There's some good days and some bad days, but we get along sometimes," said Amber.

While she will go through the typical sibling battles like the rest of us do, Amber is excited to get back on the field and battle against opposing teams.

"I think we're looking pretty good. We did well last year and we're keeping the majority of our line-up so we're looking good," she said.

Golfers just trying to get back into the swing of things

By MIKE IPPOLITO
Sports Correspondent

sports@yourtowncrier.com
WILMINGTON - While last season certainly did not go the way the Wilmington High Golf team would have liked, as the Wildcats struggled to a winless campaign. But despite the team's struggles, it was a productive season in many ways for the Wildcats as they had several players gain some valuable experience, which will hopefully help lead to some victories this season.

While the Wildcats do lose the services of some key players, they bring back the majority of last year's lineup, many of whom saw significant playing time last season. Despite the lack of results on the scoresheet, Wilmington coach Steve Lynch saw some changes in his team down the stretch that he feels will carry over into this season.

"The last couple of matches of the season we had some internal issues, but the kids who kept playing through to the end seem to have bonded a little as a group," Lynch said. "It seemed like they kind of said to each other, hey most of us are coming back next year, so let's get together and see what we can do? And even though we were not able to get any wins in those last two matches, I felt like we played a lot better."

The Wildcats had 24 players try out for the team this season, meaning that with just two days of tryouts, Lynch had some very difficult choices to make to cut the roster down to 12.

"We really didn't have much of a sample to look at," Lynch said. "We had one day on the range and one day on the course to make those choices. We had some good kids returning and we also had some newcomers to balance things off with those veterans."

"We added some good Wingate, Notre Dame, set for contest with Boston College

The University of Notre Dame women's soccer team is back on campus to kick off its home slate of games this fall on Thursday night against the Boston College Eagles. After going 1-1 in the opening weekend of the season on the road, the Irish begin a four-game homestand that will occur over the next few weeks. Thursday's match will be the second nationally televised game for the Irish, as the game will air on the ACC Network.

Wilmington resident Olivia Wingate (1 goal) is a member of the Notre Dame team.

The Irish will renew acquaintances with a conference foe that they have not faced since 2015 in Boston College.

The Irish own a 12-1-1 record all time against the Eagles and in their most recent game against Boston College, Notre Dame came away with a 2-0 win at Alumni Stadium on Oct. 11, 2015.

The two goals from the Irish came from twin sisters Taylor and Kaitlin Klawunder for Notre Dame's 10th win of the season.

Notre Dame holds a 7-0 record at home against Boston College and four of those games ended in a shutout for the Irish.

Boston College opens the 2020 season Thursday night against the Irish and are coming off an 8-8-2 campaign in 2019.

The Notre Dame offense came out in full force in its 6-0 win over the Miami Hurricanes on Sept. 20.

The Irish scored six goals, the most they have had in a game since 2015.

players to try and boost the bottom half of our lineup," Lynch said. "I think that can be a big difference between last year and this year."

While the bottom of the lineup will indeed be important for the Wildcats, one of the most important players for the Wildcats will be at the top of the lineup, where number one player and senior co-captain will do his best to lead his team on a weekly basis.

"Sam has grown steadily as a leader and as a player," Lynch said. "He came up as a freshman without much experience. It was a little rough for him his freshman and sophomore year, but he has really improved over the past four years. When he is on, he can be a very good player and a very good leader as well."

Cedrone's co-captain, fellow senior Colin Gates, will play a little further down the lineup for the Wildcats, but he will be just as important to the Wildcats success.

"Colin is a very quiet kid, but he works hard on his game," Lynch said. "He takes lessons and he works at Hillview, so he spends two thirds of his day around the golf course. He has really improved and added some length to his game. He has shown great improvement over the past four years."

Another strong returning player for the Wildcats will be sophomore Owen Mitchell, who will play in the number two slot after

an strong freshman season.

"Owen is another guy who is quiet, but you can tell he played all summer and worked on his game," Mitchell said. "He is a golfer and he is always trying to improve. In our practice round, he was one over par after eight holes. He shot a five on the ninth hole, but he did very well overall."

Rounding out the Wildcats lineup will be Rhiannon Dymant, their lone female player, in the number three slot, Joe Dynan at number four, junior Nate Packer at number five, sophomore Pat Stokes at number six and junior Matt Vinal at number seven.

Other players battling for playing time will be sophomores James Caples and Jack Toomey along with senior Jason Davey and Robert Cyr.

The Wildcats will have a much more condensed schedule this season, playing only schools in the Middlesex Freedom Division, while not playing Liberty Division powerhouses like Lexington and Winchester. They will take on Watertown, Woburn, Wakefield, Burlington and Melrose twice each.

The Wildcats kicked off their season this Monday and Tuesday against Watertown in a home and home matchup. Despite playing pretty well, the Wildcats dropped both matches, falling by scores of 40-32 on Monday and 38-34 on Tuesday.



Above, Joseph Dynan and below, Owen Mitchell, are two of the returners for this year's WHS Golf team. (photos by JoeBrownphotos.com).



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Thirteen years ago, Mello had historical night

Since there's no high school football season this fall, the Town Crier has been publishing archive game stories of old WHS Football games, matching up the current week's game. Below is the week three game from the September 26th, 2007 edition with the Wildcats defeated Lawrence.

By JAMIE POTE
Sports Editor

For those who had to pay to get in, and to sit on those uncomfortable bleacher seats for nearly three hours, might have complained had they not witnessed what happened in front of their very own eyes and on their own home field turf. After all, how many times, if any, do you get to see a high school football player score seven touchdowns in a game, and rush for 375 yards?

What Wilmington High senior tailback Ernie Mello accomplished on Friday night is something that you would think you would see in a movie, a fairy tale or some out of sight milestone to be reached.

The 5-foot-9, 165-pounder carried the ball 42 times, scoring seven times, while rushing for nearly 400 yards all the while helping the Wilmington High Football team to improve to 3-0, in a wild back-and-forth, 47-33, ballgame that included 927 total yards of offense and 12 end zone celebrations.

Mello broke the longtime records set by Jack Bowen during the 1962 season when he scored five touchdowns and rushed for 326 yards in 50-24 victory against North Andover.

Wilmington ended the night with 527 total yards of offense including 475 on the ground. Mello had all but 100 of those, as Corey Groves was terrific when called upon getting 63 yards on 8 carries, and Steve Stewart added in three carries for 39 yards. Quarterback Kyle Moon was also solid on the night, completing 6-of-9 passes for 52 yards.

On the flip side of that, Lawrence really picked apart Wilmington's defense combining for 400 total yards with 332 in the air and 68 on the ground.

But the story was Mello. "I've watched Ernie since he was a member of the Pop Warner D team and we all knew that he was going to be a really good running back. He's getting a lot of carries and I don't even know how many he got tonight," said coach Bob Almeida.

Well coach, he had over 40 ... 42 to be exact.

"That's pretty damn good right there. That's a lot of carries. How could he do that? I mean he's pretty tough. No one can ever question Ernie's toughness. And the offen-

sive line kept buckling up and going back out there and getting it done again because we kept needing to score."

Mello started the offensive night by scoring his first touchdown of the game on the team's first possession.

After Lawrence went three-and-out, the 'Cats took over on its own 46. Mello took the ball six of the eight plays which included going 25 yards to his right and getting a terrific block from Mike Manganelli before dragged down at the 1 yard line. From there he polished off what he started going in for the 1-yard TD run. Steven Stewart's kick was good and Wilmington had a 7-0 lead.

Lawrence came right back exploiting Wilmington's weakness its pass defense. Lancers' quarterback Ramon Heredia completed a 33-yard TD pass to Demetri Brown on third-and-ten making it 7-6 as the PAT kick failed.

Again Wilmington countered back. On the fifth play of the ensuing drive, Mello went up the gut for a 19-yard run which followed immediately with his 9-yard touchdown run. Stewart nailed the extra point and Wilmington led 14-6.

Both teams exchanged turnovers, and Lawrence followed with a long drive down to the Wildcat six yard line but turned the ball over on downs after an incomplete pass.

Wilmington followed with a three-and-out but managed to pin the Lancers down to its 31 yard line after a monstrous 56-yard punt by Evan Borseti. Yet the Lancers found a way to climb out of the hole stringing together a 8-play scoring drive. The first seven plays all were in the air with Heredia completing 5-of-6 passes for 63 yards before running in a 10-yard QB keeper call for his first score of the game. The conversion rush failed and the Wildcats had a 14-12 half-time lead.

While the first half had four scores, two from each team, the second half was completely off the charts. Consider what happened here. Wilmington started the third quarter off with an 8-play, 74-yard drive with Mello ending it with a 2-yard run. Don Melanson gave Wilmington the ball back one play later after he recovered a Lawrence fumble. Then Wilmington put together a 5-play scoring drive capped off by Mello's 9-yard run making it 27-12 with 4:23 to go in the third quarter.

But on the very next play from scrimmage, Lawrence's Devin Montanez took the hand-off before stopping in his tracks and unloading a 67-yard halfback option pass



Back in week three of the WHS Football season in 2007, now Hall of Famer Ernie Mello (shown in both pictures) ran for 375 yards and scored seven touchdowns in a wild win over Lawrence. Both of his marks broke records set by Jackie Bowen in 1962. (file photos).



to a absolutely wide open Brown putting the Lancers back in the game at 27-18 after the conversion attempt fell short.

Again Wilmington countered. This time they kept the ball on the ground for all but one of the 11 plays, including Mello scoring his third touchdown in a span of 12:03, this one coming on a 9-yard run to his left, and quarterback Kyle Moon's conversion rush was good giving Wilmington a 35-18 lead.

Over the next 1:58, three more touchdowns were scored. It took two plays before Lawrence found the end zone again as Ruben Sosa scored on a two-yard carry up the middle which came after Chris Derian saved a touchdown by dragging down Montanez at the two yard line after his 59-yard screen pass reception. Sosa's touchdown,

and Brown's catch on the two-point conversion made it a 35-26 score with less than nine minutes to go.

That short deficit lasted one play as Mello took the ball on the first play from scrimmage 51 yards up the middle for his sixth touchdown of the game, giving Wilmington a 41-26 lead as the conversion rush failed.

Then three plays later Lawrence answered as Heredia scored his second touchdown, this one on a 4-yard scamper which came after a 60-yard pass completion. Brown's PAT kick was good and Lawrence cut the lead down to one possession at 41-33 with 7:59 remaining in the game.

Lawrence had scored three touchdowns on just seven scrimmage plays with 191 yards of offense. Wilmington, to that point

of Heredia's touchdown, had scored its three touchdowns on 25 plays from scrimmage and 202 total yards of offense.

Almeida was asked about the his team's struggled defensively especially with the passing game. He elected to avoid the question. "The offensive line was terrific and Ernie was really, really good and Evan Borseti blocked really well on his end," said Almeida.

Now ahead by the one possession, Wilmington kept the ball on the ground all six plays of its next drive and Mello scored his seventh touchdown of the game and 14th in just three games, on a 27-yard run up the middle capping the game's scoring out. Borseti came up with a huge interception on the Wildcat 31 yard line with

less than four minutes left in the game to end any possibility of the Lancers finding the end zone again.

Almeida said he wasn't surprised with the talent that Lawrence brought to Alumni Stadium.

"We knew it wasn't going to be an easy game," said Almeida. "We were very concerned with their quarterback, obviously he had a very good game throwing the ball. But we were actually more concerned with his running game. He's a real good athlete. Actually you all saw it out there they have some really good athletes. They have a bunch of tall, fast kids that play very well."

"(Brown) was very hard to cover. Very hard. Honestly their offense was terrific tonight and they scored a lot of points."

Mello's performance topped Bowen's from 1962

This story also first appeared in the September 26th, 2007 Town Crier edition.

By JAMIE POTE
Sports Editor

At halftime, Ernie Mello already had a very impressive 111 yards and two touchdowns as the 'Cats led 14-12 in week three of the Wildcat football season.

But it was in the second half, perhaps when he was supposed to get tired, when Mello exploded to astronomical numbers. In the final 22 minutes of Friday night's two hour and forty-four minute game, Mello rushed for 264 more yards and scored four more touchdowns.

In the past eleven years, no Wildcat running back has rushed for 264 yards in a game, nevermind a half.

When 9:44 came around and the final whistle blew, the Wildcats were celebrating on its home field.

Rightfully so, Mello was asked to lead the charge to the team's winning song, since all he did in this one game was score seven touchdowns, rush for 375 yards on 42 attempts, not to mention adding two receptions and two kick returns, amassing a total of 427 all-purpose yards in the team's 47-33 victory over Lawrence.

By all accounts, Mello should have taken sometime to talk about himself, his game, and the game of a lifetime for any high school football player who has ever taken the field. But once again he tried to skip that as much as he could. He was asked what was the best part of the entire night.

"The win. We just look for wins, that's it. All we care about is getting the win," he said.

So in the team's first three games this season check out what Mr. Mello has done: 22 carries for 135 yards and 3 touch-

downs; 24 carries for 242 yards and 4 touchdowns; and 42 carries for 375 yards and 7 touchdowns.

Through three games, he has 88 carries for 752 yards with 14 touchdowns. He is averaging 8.5 yards per carry and 251 rushing yards per game. He's also on pace to rush for 2,761 yards while scoring 51 touchdowns. Obviously that's not going to happen, but what is happening is the back-up running back from a year ago is nothing less than explosive and unstoppable right now.

"He was a back-up to an all-scholastic (in Richie Barry last year)," said head coach Bob Almeida. "He was phenomenal. He is really, really running so instinctively, so hard, he's getting tough yards and he's making some great downfield cuts. He's playing really, really well."

Both Almeida and Mello praised the work of the offensive line which has also dominated defensive

lines and games. Mello said the entire group didn't change anything from the weeks before, they just spilled their guts in the trenches allowing Mello to run wild. Almeida agreed.

"You really have to start with the offensive line," said Almeida. "They have done such a tremendous job -- Kenny Joyce, Dan Molonson, Johnny Kincaid, J.J. Lyons, Chris Thibault, Evan Borseti and Tommy Barry blocking from the ends and Corey Groves has been spectacular (at fullback) and he's had some really nice runs too."

Groves is certainly the most underrated player to this point. The fullback has played phenomenal.

"It's same old, same old (from the offensive line)," said Mello. "And Corey Groves running the ball he was a monster, and his blocking was awesome too. He's the lead block everytime I carry the ball, so it all starts with him."

Running behind Groves and the rest of his O-Line, Mello actually took it easy in the first half, scoring on a 1-yard run to open the game's scoring, before adding a 9-yard touchdown run giving the 'Cats a 14-6 lead with 2:25 to go in the first half.

Then in the second half all you saw was No. 21 everywhere on the field and all you heard was Tom Walsh over the PA saying "Ernie Mello, Ernie Mello and Ernie Mello" until his face turned as blue as the Wildcat uniforms. All of those uniforms celebrated in the end zone with Mello five times in the second half as he ran in touchdown runs of 2, 9, 9, 51 and 27 yards respectively.

"No way (could I have imagined this)," said Mello. "I lost count (of the touchdowns). I couldn't even understand it probably because it was such a long game. I can't understand it but I would never have imagined

this."

Yet he finished the game with 42 carries. Forty-two carries, not to mention two receptions, two kick-off returns and oh yeah playing defense.

"I feel pretty good. I hurt my hand last game but I'm fine. Yeah I felt good (tonight). There's no complaints," he said.

The only complaint? "We have to step it up on defense but if we keep putting points up on the board like we did tonight, we'll have a good year. But we'll tighten up our defense and that's what our coaches will help us do," said Mello.

Perhaps the coaches will make adjustments to the team's defense, but certainly they'll just continue to give the ball to No. 21 Ernie Mello, who is making Wildcat Football history each and every Friday night.

Despite changes, Field Hockey team sticking together

By JAMIE POTE
Sports Editor

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TEWKSBURY

Standing on the turf field with her clipboard in hand as she scanned over her roster, Tewksbury Memorial High School Field Hockey coach Jordan Buckland put a smile on before stating, "I'm ready. I feel like I'm ready."

She like the rest of the country, have been ready for something besides being stuck at home, being stuck on the couch and being stuck talking about COVID-19, Pandemic and everything else that's going wrong in the country.

"I'm just so glad that the girls are having a season, even if it's with some changes," she continued to say. "It's worth whatever we get. It just means now in the future playoff games, when we have to get down to 7-vs-7, we're going to be much better at it."

"The seniors that we have are all just so happy to have anything at this point. They want to do everything they can. We still are in the (Merrimack Valley Conference) and still have to face those tough teams, so maybe this is the year that we are better than Methuen or maybe other teams."

In order to be better than those other teams in the Valley, Tewksbury will

have to make due with the new rule changes. Instead of ten field players and one goalie, this year it'll be six players and a goalie. There won't be any offensive corners, as well as other subtle changes. The major changes means that the six players on the field will be doing a lot more running, there should be a lot more offense created and teams will need depth because substitutions will be under rapid fire.

"There's no corners this year so we're not going to give those as part of our practices, as we would always spend a ton of time working on those in previous years. It's definitely going to change our strategy," said Buckland. "We're not going to start our ten best players anymore - and not even our top six. We have to separate our skill level because we're going to be substituting so much more."

Throughout these first few days of practices, field hockey coaches are trying to figure out where to line up the six field players to utilize their strengths the best. Some teams are going with three forwards but for Tewksbury, it looks like a 1-3-2 formation.

"We think we're going to have one forward, three midfielders that will have to be very versatile, both on offense and defense, and then we will have two



The Tewksbury Memorial High School Field Hockey team will kick off its season next Wednesday and will be led by tri-captains from left, Michelle Hinkle, Mackenzie Dawson and Maegan Marshall.

(photo by JoeBrownphotos.com).

backs on defense," said Buckland. "We had a few different ones, but the other day when we were scrimmaging, we tried this one and it immediately clicked."

The last two years, the team's offense has been led by Ryan Quinn, who has since graduated. Last year's second leading scorer Alexis Raymond really emerged as an offensive threat last year and will be looked upon to

take her game to a few more levels.

"I have no doubt that she will play even better this year," said Buckland. "She won't have her friends to play underneath her, which is good because I don't want her to be friendly on the field anymore. She needs to be more aggressive and assertive I think you'll see that from her this year."

The other senior returners will include Olivia

Burns, Emma Fleming, Mia Gaglione, Grace Govini, Michelle Hinkle, Beri Lantum, Maegan Marshall and Brooke Woodman, along with juniors Ava Piccolo, Alianna Kennen, MacKenzie Dawson, Courtney Capachietti and Brianna Gagnon, who has moved out from the goalie spot after two years and most likely will be a midfielder. Hinkle, Dawson and Marshall are the tri-cap-

tains.

Newcomers to the team include seniors Alyson Baker, Eyhuong Phalla and Sabtari Sabir; juniors Elizabeth Kenneally and Abby Mahoney and freshmen Katerina Schille, Avery DellaPiana and Sara Rivard.

Tewksbury opens the season on Wednesday, October 7th at Haverhill for a 4 pm game.

Hinkle proves why she was unanimous choice for captain

By JAMIE POTE
Sports Editor

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TEWKSBURY

For years and years, there's always controversy when it comes to high school athletic teams naming captains. Whether it's those who didn't get elected upset or mostly parents who get upset, there seems to always be one squeaky wheel.

In the case of the Tewksbury Memorial High School 2020 Field Hockey team, hearing any squeaks this year would have to be impossible - at least in the case of Michelle (Shelly) Hinkle.

A four-year player with speed to burn, Hinkle's road captaincy was as easy as 1-2-3.

"Back in the spring, I had the girls on the team vote for captains like I do every year," explained head coach Jordan Buckland. "Usually it's girls picking their friends or sometimes it's a popularity contest, but Shelly was on every single vote, one hundred percent. Hands down she was on every ballot. She deserved that, too."

And if you spend a few minutes with Hinkle, you realize why she was selected unanimously.

Ask her about being a freshman on the team back in the 2017 season.

"It was really intriguing because that first year I learned so much on varsity. It was a completely dif-

ferent experience then I had expected being a freshman. As I got older, I got a little more closer to the team so now we all have such a great time and we love playing with one another," she said.

Ask her about forward Alexis Raymond, who is coming off a great junior season.

"Alexis is super fast and was our second leading scorer last year. She is so good. I have complete confidence in her," she said.

Then ask Shelly about being an older sister to Erica, a sophomore, who is a member of the cross-country team.

"My sister and I are really close. She is one of the people who I ran with over the summer because obviously she was training for cross-country. We are 15 months apart. We have always done everything together and we have the same friends. It's been a lot of fun," said Shelly.

While Shelly clearly shows her leadership skills with her leadership qualities, as well as supporting and caring for others, she is also pretty mature when you ask her about her mindset during the months of quarantine.

"It was really weird at first because I like doing stuff like this so when you have a lot of down time, it's different," she said. "But then it was really good because when school



Tewksbury Memorial High School senior captain Michelle Hinkle, shown here with control of the ball during a game against Wilmington last year, is ready to kick off this season which gets underway on Wednesday.

(file photo).

started back up again we got schoolwork, then I was able to volunteer again and then field hock-

ey started (so things started to seem normal again)."

Now with a season here,

it's not a normal typical one. This year there are many rule changes because of the pandemic, including going 7-on-7, no more offensive corners, among other new rules.

"It's 6-vs-6 on the field so it's going to be tough to find the right formation that fits us well. We're still trying to figure out what works best for us. We're all going to do quick shift changes so five minutes in and five minutes off. It'll be a lot of running for everyone," she

said, while later adding that she plans on attending college to become a nurse.

And running Hinkle can do - she's extremely quick and durable.

"Shelly's a great kid, a strong player, she gets along with everyone so (being named captain) made perfect sense," said Buckland. "She's a pivotal player for us. She's going to be in control of everything for us this year. She's very fast and has very good skills."



Tewksbury resident Jayne Quercia (front, holding the baby) and her 'Tommy's Team' participated in the 22nd annual Samaritans 5K Run/Walk for Suicide Prevention in honor of her brother Tommy back on September 22nd.

(courtesy photo).

Coming Next Week in Wilmington:

Boys and Girls Cross-Country Previews and Captain Features; also one WHS Coach recovering from COVID-19



The captains of the TMHS Volleyball team includes twin sisters Madison (left) and Kaitlin Cueva. (photo by JoeBrownphotos.com).

Junior sisters Madison and Kaitlin Cueva to lead TMHS Volleyball team

Twins ready to rule the courts

By MARK NADEAU
Sports Correspondent

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TEWKSBURY - Even with the havoc COVID-19 has wreaked on the 2020 varsity volleyball season, a rebuilding Tewksbury High girls' team was looking at a two-year plan, anyway, to get the Redmen back into Merrimack Valley Small title and MIAA Div. 2

North.

As far as leading the team on the court in Tewksbury's two-year plan, the Redmen have the perfect duo to do the job in co-captains and twin sisters, Kaitlin Cueva and Madison Cueva.

The two juniors are aware of what awaits them in terms of building a team with only three regular contributors on

the court from last year, and they are ready to tackle the assignment.

"I love it," said Kaitie, on being named a co-captain. "I like being someone that the team can look up to, and be a good role model, so I'm excited."

"When you're a freshman, I feel like your role is to want to contribute a lot more than just being on varsity," said Maddie, reflecting on where she came from in the Redmen program. "I feel like being a captain is something, like what Kaitie said, have them (new players) look up to me whenever they need someone to rely on. I just want to be a good role model for them."

"I'm super excited about them," said Luppi, of the Cueva Twins. "They're great, they are super-positive and they work really hard. That's why they are captains, too. They're awesome."

Like most of the varsity sports, volleyball will have restrictions in place to help keep the players, coaches, officials and spectators safe. The ones involved in playing the game itself include a three-foot line on the floor in front of the nets to keep the front rows of each team from getting too close on a regular basis, as can happen over the course of a match.

The players also have to adjust to not getting too close to their teammates on the court in a way they normally do, such as huddling up after every point and constantly patting hands.

It is an adjustment, for sure, but the Cuevas think it is a small price to pay to get back on the court, playing a game they love.

"It's definitely not ideal, but I think all of us agree we're happy to just play and be on the court and have a season," said Kaitie Cueva.

"We've been wiping down the balls, every day, before practice and after practice, and obviously wearing the mask," said Maddie Cueva, on some of the new procedures. "Even though it's a hard adjustment, I feel like because we love the game so much, it's not hard to make those sacrifices."

The Cuevas played on the junior varsity as freshmen and then made the move to varsity as sophomores, last year. Neither started but both were among the few players who rotated in off the bench, every game.

Kaitie was an outside hitter, but the player in front of her in the starting lineup was star player Alli Wild, a multiple-year MVC All-Conference power hitter. Maddie was also an outside hitter, who came off the bench to hit

from the right side.

"They jumped in last year and played a major role for our team, so that was big for them," said Luppi. "I'm hoping for the same thing this year, and stepping up even more."

Kaitie Cueva will maintain her position as an outside hitter, this time in the starting lineup. Maddie Cueva will expand her role from right side hitter to being the outside hitter, opposite her sister, in the starting lineup.

"I was actually a right side, last year, so I didn't get as many touches and was always subbing in and out," said Maddie. "So now I want to work on helping out the back row and the libero. I'm willing to help out anywhere at this point."

"They are definitely offensive players, so they are smart hitters," said Luppi. "This year I would love to see them work on defense, so that would be huge. They both played in the front row, last year, so if we can get them to play all around, that would be great."

While the ultimate goal is to be ready to compete for the big prizes, next year, all the girls on the practice court want to win now, even if the opportunities are fewer this season and there is no postseason on the horizon.

"Yes, we have a really young team, but we are hoping to win a few games, at least," said Maddie. "Then we can see where we are at and maybe make some changes for next year, but I feel like if we can be good this year, we'll be even better next year."

"Hopefully we can gel more for our team, next season," said Kaitie. "I think this year we will try and work out the kinks so that next year we can be even better."

"They both have a lot of intensity," said Luppi. "Kaitie might be a little more vocal with her intensity, but Maddie can be a little more explosive with her intensity, if that makes sense. Like I said, they work really hard, they're super coachable. They lead by awesome example for our younger players."

Club volleyball has been put on hold during the pandemic, and the twins hope it is back this winter so they can continue to work out and get their reps.

The Cuevas are also looking forward to the spring, when they will enter their first season playing for the softball team.

Carrina Barron (right) sets up Madison Cueva during a game last year.

TMHS Volleyball Preview

Tewksbury digging into a two-year plan

By MARK NADEAU
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TEWKSBURY - Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tewksbury High girls' volleyball team was going to have its hands full trying to match the success of the past two seasons.

Now that there is no postseason and all sorts of other restrictions and new protocols in place because of the coronavirus, the Redmen have gone to Plan B: the two-year plan.

Basically, Tewksbury has a lot of rebuilding to do this fall, and will use the five-week, 10-match campaign to get itself ready for the 2021 season, when, hopefully, everything is back to normal.

First up is getting used to the restrictions. In addition to wearing masks and constantly sanitizing the balls, there will be a three-foot line on each side of the net which hitters cannot cross as they try and hit winners. Front line players can still compete for balls above the net, so the game is not completely distorted.

If anyone has seen a volleyball match, the players on each team are constantly in close contact with one another, whether its celebrating a point won, or encouraging one another after a lost point, this type of team bonding appears to be important to team cohesiveness over the course of a match. COVID-19 is going to put that to the test since teams can't huddle up and high-five each other anymore.

"Players are just going to have to be extra-loud and find a way to exert their excitement and show the team they are pumped and excited for the point they just got, without bringing it in (huddling)," said Tewksbury coach Allie Luppi, in her fourth season as coach. "There's definitely going to be hesitation about stepping in and then realizing you can't do that. It's going to take a lot of reminding the girls, and patience. We just have to find a way around it and make sure everyone is still cheering and clapping."

Of course, the season is getting under way later in the calendar, and the opportunities to train are fewer, too. Heading into last weekend, the young Redmen had not even reached the point where they could address what they would do between points.

"We are just getting started and we are so young, we have been doing a lot of drills, technique, with a little game-like stuff at the end," said Luppi. "We won't get into a full scrimmage where they actually have the opportunity to cheer in between each point. Right now I'm just throwing balls in real quick to get

as many reps and touches as possible."

The top returning player is MVC All-Conference libero, Carrina Barron, who is only a sophomore. Also returning are junior twin sisters, Kaitie and Maddie Cueva, two hitters who were constantly being rotated in and out of the lineup. The Cueva Twins are the team captains now, and Luppi wants to see them become more complete players.

"I love having players who are on the court consistently," said Luppi. "I find the less subs I have to use, the more the players can just jell together on the court. In order to do that you have to have players who can play all around. One of our goals this year is to develop those all around players."

The Cuevas are the only two juniors on the squad, and the Redmen also have only two seniors, so there are plenty of opportunities for the incoming sophomores and freshmen to win playing time.

"We are super young, which is cool because you have girls who don't have a ton of experience jumping in right away and getting pushed a lot," said Luppi. "And then you have our girls who are experienced who are ready to step up and really lead, which is cool to see. I'm excited for later on in the season to see if we get any click and mesh going."

Luppi says Tewksbury is still working on its starting lineup, but the Cuevas up front and Barron in back is a good place to start.

"People are still settling in and there is a lot of nervous energy," said Luppi. "Once that starts to go away, we'll be able to see what that lineup will be. But at this point I have no idea."

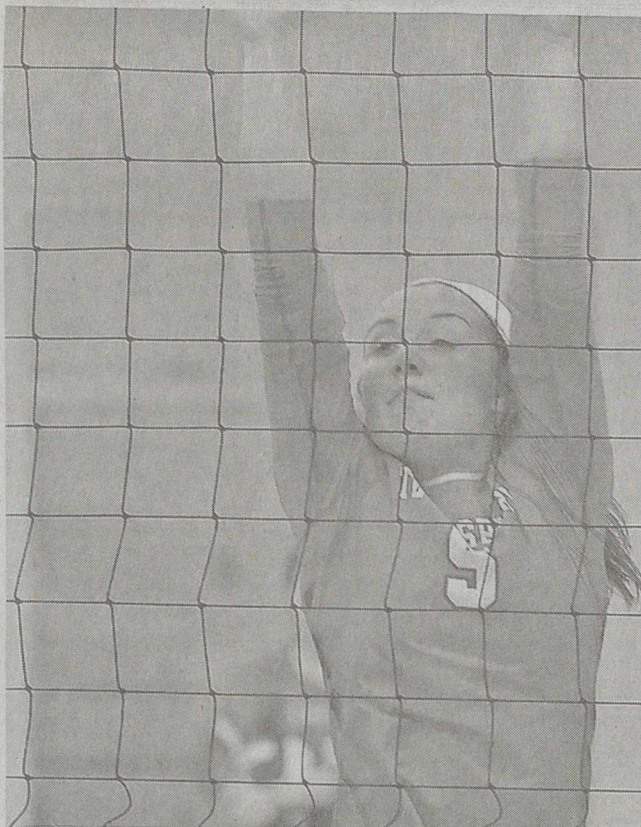
Other players in the running for regular court time are sophomore Kiley Kennedy, a big contributor on the junior varsity, last year, as were classmates Madelyn Montejo, Jennie Lester and Tori Rowe.

The Redmen also have returning senior Gabriella Schubert-Raimundo at setter, and Amanda Moreira, who was with the program as a freshman and sophomore. She is also a setter.

Tewksbury also had three freshmen who will be named as they improve and make their presence felt on the court as the season progresses. One is a front row player, one is a hitter and one a defensive specialist.

"I have ideas where I want people but I haven't given them a chance to edge one another out for a starting spot," said Luppi.

The Redmen begin their season on the road against Billerica, Friday evening (5:30 p.m.). The teams then turn around and play again on Saturday morning, at Tony Romano Court, beginning at 11:30 a.m.



Kaitlin Cueva in action for the TMHS Volleyball team during last year's magical season. (file photo).



Michaud's team not ready to pass this opportunity up

By MIKE IPPOLITO
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BILLERICA - After a three year absence, the Shawsheen Tech Girls Soccer team made their return to post season play last season, posting an 8-5-3 regular season record before being eliminated in the preliminary round of the Division 3 North Sectional tournament with a 7-1 loss to Pentucket.

The result of the difficult tournament matchup, while obviously not exactly what the Rams were looking for, hardly mattered. The important thing was the Rams were back, and even better days still lay ahead.

With 13 seniors returning to the Rams lineup this season, as well as their entire starting lineup, those better days seem to have arrived already for 15th year coach Doug Michaud and his squad.

Unfortunately for the Rams they will not be returning to the post season this year. Nor will anybody else for that matter, with the MIAA's cancellation of post season tournaments due to COVID-19. It's a tough pill to swallow for all teams of course, as pretty much every team's primary goal is to qualify for the post season, but it is especially tough for a team like the Rams, who looked primed to not only make a run at another tournament berth, but also to potentially do some damage when they got there.

"I have all returning starters, and most of them are seniors who have been in a starting spot for two or three years. They have been playing on the same team for a while, so that has to help," Michaud said. "I think we can be really good this year. It is a little disappointing they won't be able to go to the tournament this year. With the way they finished last year, they would have had a really good chance of doing well in the tournament this year."

While the news that there is no tournament to play for was tough for the Rams to take, Michaud doesn't feel like it will affect his team's approach to the season in any way. It will simply change their focus.

"Without the tournament, it's a different season altogether. But because of where they are and what they have been the past couple of seasons, I don't think it will affect them," Michaud said. "For many years we would beat Essex and Mystic, not necessarily easily, but we would win. The four of five years, we have struggled with them, and they beat us."

"We are starting to claw our way back, and we got a couple of wins over Mystic last year. I think Essex is being a little elusive and we haven't been able to beat them, but we have a really strong team this year, and I think that is their motivation because they want to beat those teams in the league."

There is plenty of reason for optimism for Michaud and the Rams, starting up front there four year starter Maya Dimino will lead the Rams offense, as she has done for most of her four years with the team. She will be joined up front by sophomore Leah Casey of Tewksbury, along with fellow sophomores Kerry Brown and Lindsay McCarthy, junior Ella Malvone and senior Jessica Scholl of Tewksbury. McCarthy and Casey combined for the Rams only goal in last season's playoff loss to Pentucket, and all three had outstanding freshman seasons in helping the Rams to the post season.

"I had no doubt her first day of freshman year that Maya would be a varsity player and she has been with us for four year and she has been great. She scored some big goals for us last year," Doug said. "And then she had the freshman to help set her up, so that made her even better."

In the midfield, the Rams will be led by senior Talia Steed of Wilmington, along with senior captain Jacqui Megna, both four-year starters, along with sophomore Brielle Pigott, another young player who had an outstanding freshman season for the Rams. Kayla Ward of Wilmington will also see playing time at midfield.

Defensively the Rams will likely be led by senior captain Eryn Ward, a four-year starter for the Rams, along with seniors



Above Amanda Howell and below Julia Steed in action for the Shawsheen Tech Girls' Soccer team. The two Wilmington residents are thrilled to get going this season after the delayed start.

Amanda Howell of Wilmington and Katie Amidon and sophomore Caitlyn Aprile.

Senior goalie Shelby Bourdeau is back for another season in net for the Rams, with senior Isabel Manning also competing for playing time in net.

The Rams captains will be Megna and Eryn Ward, both of whom have shown Michaud the ability to not only be excellent leaders, but also be versatile enough to help the team in multiple positions.

"Jacqui moved up from defense last year and played center mid. When she first came out, I didn't have any defense and I needed defenders, so I had her on defense and I had Eryn on defense," Michaud said. "They became the heart of my defense for two years. And then last year I lost my midfielders so I had to move them up. Every now and then, I would move Eryn back because she just has great speed."

In addition to simply trying to win as many games as possible, the Rams will also be adjusting to a new set of rules for high school



soccer set forth by the MIAA due to the pandemic. These rules changes include, but are not limited to, no intentional heading of the ball, no shoulder to shoulder contact, no slide tackling and the wearing of masks when within six feet of another

player.

Like every other team in Massachusetts, the Rams are learning as they go. And Michaud is learning to teach as he goes.

"The first day of tryouts was the guy who doesn't talk a lot talking for an hour. It took forever to

get through that stuff so it is nice to now have them out there scrimmaging," Michaud said. "They are still not really fully used to it. I mean, I am not even really fully used to it yet. But we will get there."

Howell and Steed have a goal of meeting bigger challenges

By MIKE IPPOLITO
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BILLERICA - With a season destined to bring its share of challenges ahead of them, the Shawsheen Tech Girls Soccer team will be looking more than ever for their players to step up and meet those challenges to help their team navigate through a season unlike any other.

Thankfully for the senior laden Rams, they have a roster full of players who are willing to do whatever it takes to make this abbreviated season a success. Two of those players who have shown the ability to do just that, not only this season, but in seasons past, are seniors Talia Steed and Amanda Howell, both of Wilmington.

As they prepare to kick off their final season of high school soccer, both Steed and Howell expressed an eagerness to get started and get back on the field.

"I am really excited. I haven't really been able to do anything active for a long time because of quarantine, so I am excited to get back on the field," Steed said. "I didn't get to play during the summer, but I am very happy to be here now."

For Howell, who missed out on her lacrosse season

with the Rams this past spring, getting back on the soccer field has been an adjustment, but it has been one she has eagerly embraced.

"My club lacrosse team, Revolution Lacrosse had online practice in our backyard on Zoom, and then we started to get more back into it more, so I have been having one practice a week for lacrosse, but it has been different with social distancing and everything," Howell said. "It's hard coming back for multiple days in a row when you haven't been used to that. And I haven't played soccer since last season, so it has been a while so it is kind of tough to come back. But it's a lot of fun, especially after not playing for so long. It is fun to see all of my friends and teammates and meeting all the new players too."

There was a period of adjustment for both players, as Steed had to get used to being back on the field after not having much activity in recent months. But, thankfully for her and the Rams, she adapted pretty quickly.

"At first I wasn't very motivated to come back because it was so hard being stuck in quarantine and not doing much," Steed said. "And then once I got back and got into it, it was kind of hard for me because it was a

lot running and physical activity and I wasn't really in shape, but now that I am here, I am happy to be here with my friends and my teammates and we are ready to play."

Steed has made the necessary adjustments to help her team in the past, as she showed last season when she switched positions without skipping a beat, and helped the Rams secure a state tournament berth for the first time in three seasons.

"Talia has always played an outside midfielder position, but we tried her in the center mid spot last year and she did very well," Shawsheen coach Doug Michaud said. "We have her back in the middle again this year, so we are looking forward to seeing what she can do. She's got a lot of little quick moves. She does a great job of shielding the ball and staying in front of it and looking around to make a good pass."

Howell as also shown the ability to play multiple positions for the Rams, starting her career as a forward, and then moving back to play defense in her sophomore year.

"Amanda had always been a forward for us, but someone had said to me keep an eye on her, because she plays very well on defense in lacrosse," Michaud said. "I had a lot forwards and

she wasn't getting a lot of playing time, and then we had an injury on defense, so we moved her back there and she basically sealed a spot back there because she played so well."

In addition to adjusting to a new position, Howell also had to overcome a major injury in order to get back in the lineup. After playing with the JV squad in her freshman season with the Rams, Howell had secured a spot in the starting lineup as a sophomore, but in her first game of her sophomore year, she tore her ACL, forcing her to miss the entire season.

It could have been a devastating blow to her career, but she battled her way through it, going through both ACL surgery and the rehab that went with it, and recovered even quicker than expected.

"It was really hard both mentally and physically, but I had my friends and family to support me, so I got through it very fast, so I was able to come back a little early, in just six months," Howell said. "I am almost at the point where I don't even need the brace anymore. I feel pretty confident in my knee at this point."

Michaud knows how difficult it must have been for Howell to battle through the pain she was in, but he recalls her

doing whatever it took to help the team last season.

"There were a few times last year where she might be a little more tired because of her knee, but she would just come out for a few minutes and then be like, coach I am ready to go back in and she would go in and she would be fine," Michaud said. "She battled through it."

Steed meanwhile, has been a starter for the Rams since her freshman year, and has grown into one of the leaders of the team, helping to keep the team loose with her sense of humor, but at the same time, helping to keep them focused on the task at hand. That is perhaps more important than ever this season, and Steed is up to the challenge.

"Honestly we are working really hard. It is going to be hard adjusting to all the new rules, but we are working hard and our coach is pushing us hard, so we are looking to have another great season and we are looking to win no matter what the rules are," Steed said. "I have been trying to get people motivated and trying to tell them that we just want to have fun and just play the game. Don't worry about the new rules. I mean of course follow them, but don't worry about it. Just be happy you are out of quar-

antine and out in the fresh air and getting to play soccer."

And while there is no state tournament to play for this season, Steed says that she and her teammates still have plenty to play for.

"It's normally a big part of our season, because every game we play we are playing with the goal of getting to the tournament, so it is a little hard that we don't have the tournament this year," Steed said. "But we are still going to work hard and we are still going to try and get those wins for ourselves and for the team, not just to get to the tournament."

Howell has also taken on a leadership role with the team, and is looking to help guide her team, particularly her younger teammates, to another successful season.

"It's kind of weird, because normally we would be trying to help them get ready to play to get into the tournament, but we can't do that this year," Howell said. "It's hard as a freshman, because you don't know anyone, so we are doing our best to make them feel welcome and let them know that we are hoping to have a lot of fun this year."



Shawsheen's Joe Hansen clears the ball against Lowell Catholic during a regular season game held last year. (file photo).

Passionate Hansen ecstatic that athletics got the clear to play

By MIKE IPPOLITO
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BILLERICA - For Joe Hansen the end of the high school soccer season has never meant the end of playing soccer. In fact, long before the senior defender from Wilmington joined the Shawsheen Tech Boys Soccer team four years ago as a freshman, year round soccer had become a way of life. Between the Wilmington Youth Soccer program, as well as club soccer programs, it seemed that Hansen was never off the pitch.

The COVID-19 pandemic of course changed all of that, forcing Hansen and every other soccer player off the field of play for their spring leagues as well as the early summer, with virtually all sports in the United States being shut down.

But in late summer that began to change, as soccer leagues slowly began to sprout up, albeit with some major rules changes. But rules changes or not, Hansen was not about to be denied in his quest for a return to action, as he gathered as many of his Shawsheen teammates as he could and created a team that played an eight-game schedule this summer. It was not ideal, but at least it was soccer.

It could also end up being a big part of the Rams success this season, as thanks to his efforts, Hansen and many of his Rams teammates are well prepared for the start of the season.

"We played an eight game league, so one game per week," Hansen said. "It was canceled at first, but they restarted it. It

was a whole crazy situation, but it worked out. It was better than playing nothing."

While talking about playing summer soccer, not once did Hansen indicate that he was the catalyst for helping his team get on the field. It was only when Hansen's interview was over that Shawsheen head coach Tom Severo made sure to give credit to the senior captain that Hansen would not give to himself.

"A lot of that play over the summer and keeping everybody focused and organized was Joe. It was a direct result of his hard work and dedication," Severo said. "He was determined to have this team prepared and play during the summer, even with all of the issues with COVID and the league being suspended for a while. They normally play games around here, but they were playing games in Watertown and all over. He is a big reason why that happened and why this team is ready for the season."

There is good reason why Hansen wanted to get back on the field, as he simply loves the game. He lives and breathes it, and with the Rams season set to open on Thursday afternoon at home against Greater Lowell, he is counting the days until opening kickoff.

"Each day closer to October 1st is a better day," Hansen said. "It will be the first official game for me personally, since March, and for most of these guys, it's their first game since last season, so it's exciting every day. I'm seeing everyone get better and we should have a good season this

year."

The Rams are coming off a tremendous 11-4-4 season, which ended with a hard fought 1-0 overtime loss to Wakefield in the first round of the Division 2 North Sectional Tournament. Hansen was happy with his team's overall performance from last season, but he was far from satisfied, and he has come back hungrier than ever this season.

"I feel like we can be even better. I feel like everyone wants to be better than last year," Hansen said. "We were good last year, don't get me wrong, but I think everyone wants to get better."

If the Rams are in fact going to be improved from last season, Hansen will of course be a big part of it. Severo saw the growth in Hansen's game last season and he is looking forward to seeing him take the next step this season.

"Joe is the definition of what it takes to play soccer. This is his focus and you can see it," Severo said. "He took more and more of a leadership role last season and you could see him getting better and better and he became more and more of a vocal part of the team last year, so the sky is the limit for him. He has great talent and great desire."

Hansen's talents may be more valuable than ever this season due to the rule changes that will limit the way teams are allowed to play defense, including not allowing any contact by defenders. Hansen has always been a physical player, so he will have to alter his game somewhat, but regardless of the changes he will be a key

on the back end for the Rams.

"Joe takes charge and that's what you want back there," Severo said. "And this year we might end up going with just three defenders (instead of four), because of the changes in the game, and Joe would be the central defender and one of the reasons for him doing that is because he is such a vocal leader and such a dynamic leader."

Hansen takes great pride in his role as one of the Rams captains, as he is always looking for ways to help point his team in the right direction.

"Obviously, I try to keep them motivated as much possible. I mean, everyone here wants to play soccer, but keeping them motivated is important. Also, I try to be a role model for the younger players on the team. I think that is a huge part of it, for the future of this team."

One of the ways that Hansen is most hoping to lead the team is by keeping them motivated throughout the season despite there being no post season tournament to play for. Hansen would much rather be trying to earn a tournament berth, but he has quickly adjusted to the new reality, and has passed that on to his teammates as well.

"Even if there is no tournament, we are still playing soccer and we can still be league champs if we win all of our games, or at least most of our games," Hansen said. "I think that is enough motivation to keep everyone giving one hundred percent in every game and practice."

They were both very strong players, but they were also veteran players, who knew how to play high school, competitive golf. We need the kids this year to do the same. We need them to understand that playing high school golf is different than just getting together to play with your friends."

The Rams appear to once again be in good hands in the leadership department this season, with senior Steven O'Connor of Wilmington taking over for McFadden. Much like McFadden, O'Connor had to work very hard to get into the position he now holds with the team.

"Steve is another one of

GOLF B11W

Shawsheen hoping to compete under new rules

On the soccer field, Rams are a model of consistency

By MIKE IPPOLITO
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BILLERICA - The Shawsheen Tech Boys Soccer team has been the model of consistency over the past several seasons, with the Rams qualifying for the post season in four of the past five seasons under coach Tom Severo.

But some years are just more memorable than others, and last season would certainly qualify as one of those years for the Rams, who powered their way to an impressive 11-4-4 record and a second place finish in the CAC Large.

Among the highlights for the Rams included the program's first ever victory over perennial CAC powerhouse Chelsea, on their way to earning the No. 4 seed in the Division 2 North Tournament. That's when they battled Wakefield of the powerful Middlesex League to a scoreless tie in regulation before falling 1-0 in overtime.

It was no doubt a season to remember, but it now must be put in the rear view mirror as the Rams prepare for the start of a new season, one that will be unlike anything they, or any other soccer team, has ever seen before.

With the new rules changes in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the elimination of the post season tournament, the Rams will face a lot of new challenges this season. But Severo, who is entering his seventh season as head coach of the Rams, feels like even with the new rules, his team can build on the success of last season.

"Success breeds success. We're looking at having a better year. We are setting high goals for ourselves and hopefully we can achieve them," Severo said. "In some ways it is tough. You would rather have the tournament. That is preferable, but we still have the league championship to shoot for, and where we are limited to just ten games, we are looking at it that we want to win each of those ten games. That is our goal. If we can only play ten, we want to try and win all of them."

Those are some lofty goals to be sure, but with the roster the Rams are bringing back, including returning CAC All-Stars Tyler Archibald and Joe Hansen of Wilmington, along with junior defender Jeremy Perez of Tewksbury, there is plenty of reason for optimism.

In addition to those three returnees, the Rams will also bring back several other talented players, including senior goalies Tyler Newhouse of Wilmington and Adam Kearns, who split time in net last season, along with senior midfielders Billy Hartshorn and Anthony Papa, along with fellow senior Devin Almeida of Wilmington.

There is still plenty to be determined as to who will be in the Rams starting lineup, but watching the last day of tryouts last Friday, Severo liked what he saw overall.

"The first week is the toughest. We have all these kids, and we are trying to enforce social distancing, so it is hard to really evaluate things, but we should know much better by next week," Severo said. "But I am encouraged by the group I am looking at and I think we will be very good. I like their attitude, and I like their effort."

Four of the players

whose attitude Severo has liked most not just this season, but for the past several seasons are Almeida, Archibald, Hansen and Hartshorn, who will serve as the Rams captains this season.

"Tyler brings a high level of skills and abilities. He is just a fabulous player. He didn't play as a freshman because he had knee surgery, but he came in as a sophomore and played high minutes and showed right away that he is a really skilled player," Severo said. "Devin brings a lot of intangibles as does Billy. Both of them are the type that can play on the field and communicate with their teammates. They are both strong players, but they are also the kind of guys you need on your team. They keep everybody's spirit up and keep everybody going in the same direction."

"Joe is the definition of what it takes to play soccer. He took more and more of a leadership role last season and you could see him getting better and better and he became more and more of a vocal part of the team last year, so the sky is the limit for him."

As for the Rams last line of defense in net, they appear to be in very good hands, with Newhouse and Kearns both having looked sharp in the early days of camp.

"We are not sure yet how it is going to shake out. They split time pretty much all last season, and that worked out very well, but we are not sure what we will do this year. It's not what I normally do. I normally look for one, but it served us well last year, so we will see how that shakes out. They are both quality kids and they are both great goaltenders, so you can't go wrong."

One of the challenges the Rams, and all the teams in the state will have to deal with this season, is the changes to the rules of high school soccer set forth by the MIAA due to the pandemic. These rules changes include, but are not limited to, no intentional heading of the ball, no shoulder to shoulder contact, no slide tackling and the wearing of masks when within six feet of another player.

It will be a learning curve for all teams, but Severo is confident his team will handle the changes well.

"They're adjusting well. The summer league gave them a chance to start playing with the new rules, so that helped," Severo said. "But the summer isn't as organized and some refs enforced things more than others, so starting on Monday, we will be doing a lot of scrimmaging in practice under the new rules. We will scrimmage more so than in other years and probably do less drills."

New rules or not, this group of Rams is looking forward to making the most of their season, and Severo sees in them a great desire to make the most of every opportunity to play together. They will also not be intimidated by having to follow some new rules.

"A lot of these kids have experience, and they will not be in awe of playing varsity soccer," Severo said. "They've got that under their belts and now they have raised their expectations."

Golfers driving to keep dynasty intact

By MIKE IPPOLITO
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BILLERICA - The rest of the Commonwealth Athletic Conference may be getting a little tired of the same old story, but for the Shawsheen Tech Golf team, history repeating itself has been working out very well for the past decade and a half, and last season was no exception.

It was another banner season, literally, for the Rams in 2019, as for the 15th season in a row, they captured the CAC title, posting a perfect 11-0 record within the league (12-4 overall), while also earning a second place finish at the CAC League Championship Match and a fourth place finish at the

Massachusetts Vocational Tournament.

The Rams will of course be looking to make it 16 straight titles this season, although the circumstances will be a little different with only ten matches overall, and no post season tournaments due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, with three CAC teams (Northeast, Minuteman and Greater Lawrence) not competing this season, the Rams will have a much more condensed schedule, as they will face Greater Lowell and Nashoba Tech twice each and Essex Tech and Lowell Catholic three times each.

Nevertheless, the goal remains the same for the Rams, and that is to capture another league

crown. With a very strong group of returning players, the Rams look to be in very good position to make it 16 straight, but coach Tom Struthers, who has guided the Rams to each of the past 15 league titles, is warning against overconfidence.

While the Rams did not lose a lot of players off of last year's team, they did lose team captain Brady McFadden of Tewksbury, along Andre Comeau.

"We had a great season last year and a big reason for that was Brady," Struthers said. "Brady was a kid who just practiced and listened to instruction during his four years here and he just got better and better," Struthers said. "So, losing Brady and Andre is tough.

Shawsheen Girls CC team preparing to compete this season

By MIKE IPPOLITO
Sports Correspondent

sports@yourtowncrier.com
BILLERICA - While last season did not bring a Commonwealth Athletic Conference title to the Shawsheen Tech Girls Cross Country team, it was another tremendous year for the Rams, who have made a habit of

being among the top team in the CAC on a yearly basis.

And while they couldn't quite match the history making perfect 12-0 season of 2018, the Rams did still manage to post an impressive 9-3 record, which included a fourth place finish at the CAC Meet as well as a fourth

place finish at the Massachusetts State Vocational Meet.

The Rams will be looking for the same type of success this season, but it will not be easy, as they are not quite as deep as in recent years due to low numbers. That being said, while they will certainly miss the talents of Wilmington's Jessica Stevens, and Tewksbury's Rybekah Marsh, both of whom performed very well last season, they did not lose very many runners off of last year's team.

The Rams also bring back a talented group of athletes, led by their number one runner Rachael Halas of Billerica, along with many other of their top runners from a year ago.

"I am fairly optimistic. We bring some good runners back, so we have some good returning talent," Shawsheen coach Pat Kelly said. "However, our numbers are a bit down, so I am not sure if that is a sign of the times where people just aren't out and about, but our numbers are down a little bit. We have some good young talent that we are hoping can contribute as well."

Halas will of course lead the way once again for the Rams. She is coming off a pair of sensational seasons for the Rams, including last season as a sophomore when she took a fourth place finish at the CAC meet in a time of

22:31 and a fifth place finish in the state vocational meet in a time of 22:58.

"We are hoping Rachael continues to find success as one of the top female runners in the league," Kelly said.

Some other runners who are expected to contribute this season after having very good seasons last year include senior Kelley DeLosh, who was 21st at the CAC Meet in a time of 24:30, as well as sophomore Hannah Lyle, who had an outstanding freshman season with a 28th place finish at the CAC Meet.

Junior Kaylee Gaffney of Tewksbury has also come into camp primed for a good season after training hard in the off-season.

"I am excited to see what Kaylee can do this season," Kelly said. "You can tell she has worked out all off season, so that will be exciting to watch."

The Rams captains this season will be Halas, DeLosh and Stephany Krusper of Tewksbury. The trio are all obviously talented runners, but Kelly is looking for more than just talent from his captains.

"Some of it has to with years on the team, some of it has to do with performance, but the majority of it is how are they as a leader," Kelly said. "We try to pick the people who come out and lead by example. Of course, we like when there is longevity, but it is not limited to

that. When they come out and train hard and then perform well, that is what we are looking for. And when I say perform well, I don't even mean they have to come in first place.

"When they come out and perform at their optimal ability is what we are looking for. And those kids have those qualities that we are looking for."

There are several changes the Rams and other cross country teams around the state will have to adjust to this season, including staggered starts and the wearing of masks at all times while running, except when more than six feet away from any other runner. It is still a work in progress, but Kelly feels like both the boys and girls teams are adjusting well to the changes.

"We have been stressing that. If you are running as an individual you can take your mask down, but as soon as you approach somebody you have to put it back up. It is for the safety of themselves and the safety of everyone," Kelly said. "They are a great group and have been very receptive. We are not getting any negative feedback on that. They understand, and they are just doing a very good job of getting it done."

Another big change for the Rams this season will be their home course at Shawsheen. The Rams course has long been con-

sidered one of the toughest in the CAC, but with changes required by the MIAA in order to allow for social distancing while passing, the Rams had to alter their course.

"Our former course had this really nice hill that was a major deterrent to our opponents, so we are disappointed to lose that," Kelly said. "We still have the same elevation game roughly, however we don't have that same hill. The new course still hits the three-mile mark, so it has the distance, I just don't know that it's as challenging as the old course"

With no post season meets and only seven meets overall this season, it might be hard to evaluate just how good this Rams team is, but Kelly is looking forward to seeing them improve as the season goes on.

"We have a good group of seniors on the girls side, along with a good group of incoming freshmen, so we have some depth," Kelly said. "We have a lot of kids who have come into camp in shape, and have trained really hard so I am hoping to see them do well and set some PR's, while some others have not. But we will work with them to build them back into shape."

"And then we have some kids who have never run before, so we will build them up to reach their full potential as well."



Shawsheen Tech's Rachael Halas returns to this year's Cross-Country team. (file photo).

Plenty of potential and optimism surrounds Boys CC squad

By MIKE IPPOLITO
Sports Correspondent

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BILLERICA - With a 6-5 record last season, to go along with a sixth place finish at the

Commonwealth Athletic Conference Meet as well as a fifth place finish at the Massachusetts State Vocational Meet, the Shawsheen Tech Boys Cross Country team showed that they were still a work in progress. But they also showed that they were a team that had some great potential for even bigger and better things, with some talented underclassmen runners.

While this season will certainly look different, with no post season meets and a shortened seven meet schedule due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it looks like a season where the Rams could live up to that potential and make some noise within the CAC.

While the Rams did have a couple of their top five runners not return, they bring back a strong core of runners and are led by a strong senior class which should lead them in most meets.

The Rams lost just two seniors off of last year's team, including Mike Bankowski of Tewksbury, but they return seven seniors to this year's roster, many of whom they will be counting on to put up strong seasons.

Leading the way once again for the Rams will be

senior captain Alex Smith of Billerica. Following in the footsteps of his brother, 2018 graduate Ryan Smith, who had a tremendous four year career with the Rams, Alex led the Rams in every meet last season, culminating in a pair of strong performances in the post season, where he finished 14th in the CAC Meet in a time of 18:15 and 22nd at the state vocational meet in a time of 18:56.

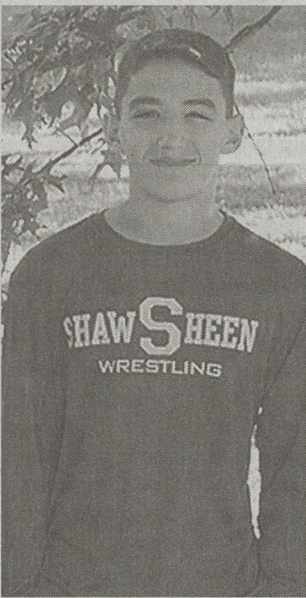
Other seniors who Kelly will be counting on will be Paul Tower and Damien Hadden of Tewksbury, along with Sam Quattrocchi of Billerica. Tower came out of nowhere last season to become one of the Rams top runners, consistently being one of the top five Rams finishers during the regular season, before finishing 28th at the CAC Meet in a time of 19:03, and 25th at the state vocational meet in the same exact time. At the vocational meet, he was the Rams number two finisher, trailing only Smith.

Quattrocchi meanwhile, steadily improved as the season went on and wrapped up his season with a 39th place finish at the CAC Meet in a time of 20:55.

"We have Alex, Damien, Paul and Sam, all of whom did very well last year and we are looking forward to seeing what they can do this season," Kelly said.

Junior Andrew Stokes

was another top performer for the Rams last season, steadily improving as the year went on, before finishing in 38th at



JOSEPH D'AMPOLO

the CAC Meet in a time of 20:11.

With the pandemic forcing many people indoors for an extended period of time, it may have been more difficult to train than in previous off seasons. But several Rams did indeed get themselves ready for the season and Kelly has appreciated their efforts.

Two of those runners that have impressed Kelly out of the gate are a pair of Tewksbury juniors, Adam Ippolito and Joe D'Ampolo. While D'Ampolo became one of the Rams top runners by the end of last season, fin-

ishing 34th in the CAC Meet in a time of 19:33 and 54th at the vocational meet, Ippolito steadily improved during the sea-



ANDREW STOKES

son before finishing in a time of 23:04 in the CAC Meet and 23:03 in the vocational meet.

"The kids that put the work in you can definitely tell, so we are excited to see what they can do. So, somebody like Adam, immediately when he came in, I could tell he had been training, so I am excited to see him shatter a PR," Kelly said. "And Joe had a very good year for us last season and he is another one who put in the off season work, so we are excited to see what he can do this season."

Another pair of runners that have stood out in the early part of camp are Connor and Logan Pyles, both newcomers to the

team. Connor is a junior, while Logan is a freshman.

"Both of them are in their first year with the team and both of them have looked very good in practice so far, so we are excited to see what they will do once the season gets underway," Kelly said.

In the midst of preparing for the season, the Rams are also adjusting to the rules changes put in place due to the pandemic, including staggered starts and the wearing of masks at all times while running, except when more than six feet away from any other runner. It is still a work in progress, but Kelly feels like both the boys and girls teams are adjusting well to the changes.

"We have been stressing that. If you are running as an individual you can take your mask down, but as soon as you approach somebody you have to put it back up. It is for the safety of themselves and the safety of everyone," Kelly said. "They are a great group and have been very receptive. We are not getting any negative feedback on that. They understand, and they are just doing a very good job of getting it done."

The Rams captains this year will be Smith, Tower and D'Ampolo, and Kelly feels like they will do a great job in leading their teammates throughout

the season.

"Some of it has to with years on the team, some of it has to do with performance, but the majority of it is how are they as a leader. We try to pick the people who come out and lead by example," Kelly said. "Of course, we like when there is longevity, but it is not limited to that. When they come out and train hard and then perform well, that is what we are looking for. And when I say perform well, I don't even mean they have to come in first place."

"When they come out and perform at their optimal ability is what we are looking for. And those kids have those qualities that we are looking for."

With it being early in the

preseason, Kelly down-

played how good he feels

his team can be, but it is

clear that when he talks

about his team, he feels

like he is in charge of a

very talented group.

"It has only been a week,

so it is hard to really tell

right now but I am excited

to see how some kids can

do this year that have

trained really hard,"

Kelly said. "We lost some

of our senior talent, but

the kids that remain are

talented and may even be

talented enough to carry

us to a very good season."

Shawsheen Golfers driving to keep dynasty intact

FROM B10W

those stories of a kid who just worked hard and just kept steadily improving. We have had a lot of kids over the years like that and that is a really great part of our program," Struthers said. "Steve made the team as a freshman, at least partially because he was willing to learn. And now four years later, he is a captain. That is how this program works."

Other top players for the Rams will include seniors Sean Murphy and Connor Preble, both of Tewksbury.

"Sean has been playing very well so far. He is just

a steady player for us. He is a quiet kid, who just goes out and scores very well it seems like, in every match," Struthers said. "Connor is another player who can be very good. When he focuses, he is an outstanding player. He has lacked a little consistency, but he has the ability to shoot a lot of low scores."

Senior Nolan Rexford will round out the top four players for the Rams, and he will be joined in the lineup by returning senior players Aiden Sullivan and DJ Ducharme, along with senior newcomer Brendan Kelley. Andrew

Gattineri of Wilmington is the lone returning junior on the Rams roster, while fellow junior Kyle Brouillette is a newcomer to the Rams roster.

Sophomore Evan Williams is the only sophomore on the Rams roster, but they will have three freshmen on the squad as well, with Sean Schlehuber, Liam Milne and Matthew Tramonte (Tewksbury), rounding out the roster.

Tramonte has already made his presence felt for the Rams, shooting a 40 over nine holes in their season opening win over Nashoba last week, and

Struthers is looking for bigger and better things from him both this season and throughout his career.

"He is a fantastic player," Struthers said. "He shot a 39 today in practice, and the highest he has shot has been a 42. I am looking forward to seeing him play a lot this season."

In that season opening 134-45 win over Nashoba Tech last Thursday, the Rams had O'Connor, Tramonte and Rexford each shoot a 45, while Sullivan and Preble each shot a 42, and Ducharme shot a 43.

It is pretty clear the

Rams are once again loaded with talent this season, a fact that obviously makes Struthers very happy, but also makes him think about what his team is missing out on.

"The worst part of the changes this season is that there is no tournament," Struthers said. "This team is deep and talented. We would have had to see if they were mentally tough enough for tournament play, but I think they would have done very well. They have a lot of talent."

Tournament or not, Struthers is looking for-

ward to seeing what is team can do in their abbreviated season.

"My mission as their coach is to make the season the best it can possibly be," Struthers said. "For a lot of the seniors, this is the last time they will ever compete, so I want them to go out and try and win every match. I know what kind of team I have and I know how good they can be. I just want them to go out and enjoy the season, but also take it seriously, and I know they will."



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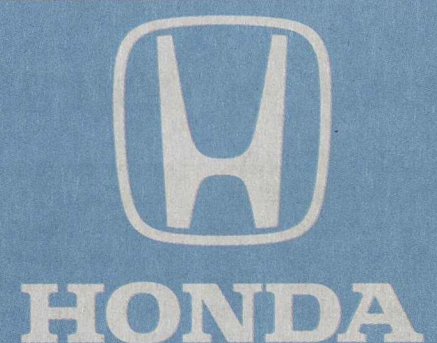
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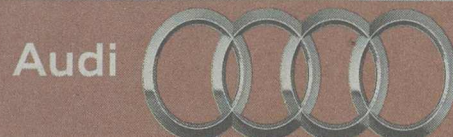
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